

# Florida

Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation

Florida House-Boating  
They Have It Made

# WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1966

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS



# Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

## WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON 1966-67

**TWO PHASE**

**NOVEMBER 24**  
thru **NOVEMBER 27**  
•  
**DECEMBER 3**  
thru **JANUARY 8**

SHOOTING HOURS  
FROM ONE-HALF  
HOUR BEFORE  
SUNRISE  
TO SUNSET



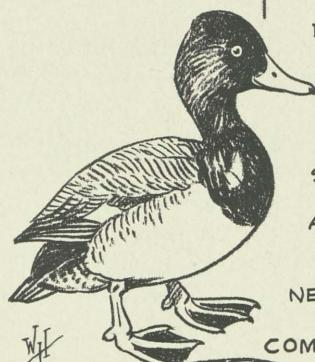
### GEES

DAILY LIMIT - 2  
POSSESSION LIMIT - 4

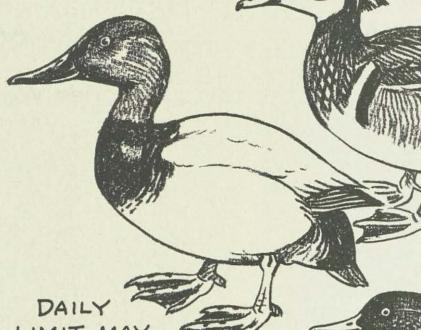
### DUCKS

ALL SPECIES OTHER THAN  
WOOD DUCK, CANVASBACK  
AND MEGANSERS •  
DAILY LIMIT - 4  
POSSESSION LIMIT - 8

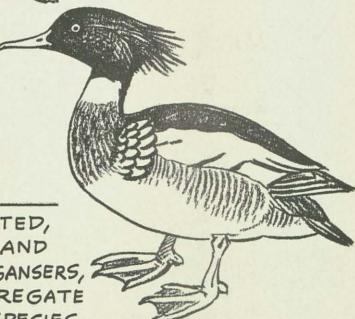
DAILY LIMIT MAY INCLUDE  
NOT MORE THAN  
2 WOOD DUCKS  
• POSSESSION  
LIMIT - 4



IN CERTAIN AREAS  
2 SCAUPS OR  
2 RINGNECK  
DUCKS MAY BE  
TAKEN IN  
ADDITION  
TO THE  
REGULAR DAILY  
BAG LIMIT •  
SEE COMPLETE  
REGULATIONS  
AVAILABLE FROM  
YOUR COUNTY  
JUDGE OR  
NEAREST GAME  
AND FISH  
COMMISSION OFFICE



DAILY  
LIMIT MAY  
INCLUDE NOT  
MORE THAN  
2 CANVASBACKS •  
POSSESSION LIMIT - 4



### COOT

DAILY LIMIT - 10  
POSSESSION LIMIT - 20

RED-BREASTED,  
AMERICAN AND  
HOODED MEGANSERS,  
IN THE AGGREGATE  
OF THESE SPECIES -  
DAILY LIMIT - 5,  
POSSESSION LIMIT - 10,  
NOT TO INCLUDE MORE  
THAN 1 HOODED MEGANSER  
DAILY OR 2 IN POSSESSION

# Florida WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1966

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Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission  
State of Florida

★

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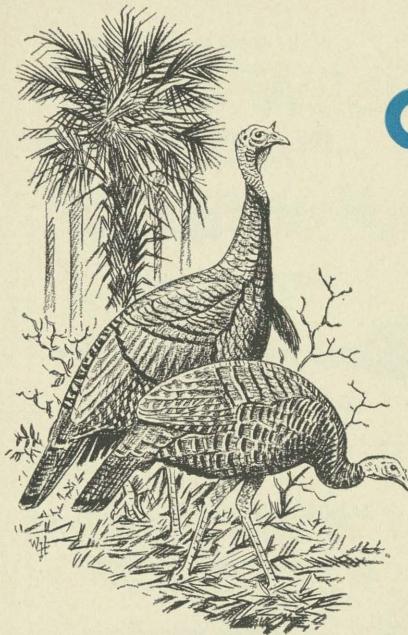
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### From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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ROSE 

TALLAHASSEE



# CONSERVATION SCENE

## Early Florida Historic Investigation

covered large quantities of merchandise and treasure, particularly silver, from the wrecks.

Exploration of the site will provide information and artifacts to be used in an interpretive museum planned on the site of what Clausen calls "a fantastically interesting and valuable portion of the history of the State."

### Wetlands Preservation

THE ACCELERATED Federal program to preserve wetlands—vital to migratory birds and other wildlife—continues to progress, the Department of the Interior has announced. More than 222,000 acres of important waterfowl habitat were added during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1966. This compares with 253,000 acres the previous year.

Of the "new" acreage, 42,000 acres were added to the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. This included land for five new refuges and additions to 34 existing areas. The remaining 180,000 acres were added to the Waterfowl Production Areas in the northern prairie States.

The purchase of land and easements for waterfowl habitat is financed through the sale of Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps (commonly called "duck stamps") to waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and philatelists.

Except for costs of printing, money from the stamps is earmarked for purchase of waterfowl habitat. Because annual sales were not enough to save key areas, Congress in 1961 authorized a \$105 million "loan" fund to

purchase waterfowl habitat over a seven-year period, with the amount to be repaid from the sale of duck stamps.

At the outset of the program, the Department set a goal of 2,500,000 acres to be acquired—1,750,000 of them for Waterfowl Production Areas, mostly in Minnesota and North and South Dakota, to protect nesting habitat from drainage. Much of the habitat is protected by purchase of permanent easements—agreements not to drain marshes.

As of June 30, 742,000 acres had been acquired under the accelerated program. A total of \$32.5 million had been appropriated to the loan fund. With the \$105 million goal unlikely to be attained in the next two years, proposed legislation has been introduced to extend the program.

### Rick's Nature Magazine

LAUNCHING A MAJOR effort to assist parents and teachers in the conservation education of American youth, the National Wildlife Federation recently announced plans for a new program specifically designed for children of elementary school age. To be called "Ranger Rick's Nature Club," the program is designed for youngsters up to the age of 10 and will feature a new 48-page full-color nature magazine.

"We believe that conservation really begins with education," said Judge Louis D. McGregor, Flint, Michigan, President of the two-million member Federation. In announcing the new program, he added, "For this reason, we have decided to blaze a new trail

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL exploration is now underway at the historical site south of Sebastian Inlet in Indian River County recently acquired by the Florida Park Board.

An investigative team headed by Carl J. Clausen, marine archaeologist for the State Board of Antiquities, is exploring for "clues" of the loss of the Spanish fleet in the area in 1715.

Clausen has informed the Park System that archaeological techniques can reconstruct an accurate historical account covering the loss of the fleet, the plight of the survivors and the activities of the Spanish concerning recovery of goods.

The marine archaeologist has reported that the land deeded in July to the Park Board by Robert P. McLarty of Vero Beach shows evidence of being adjacent to the camp site of the survivors of the Spanish ships downed in an early 18th century hurricane.

Documents concerning the fleet indicate that some 1,500 survivors of the various wrecked ships gathered at the sandbar of Ays, or Barra de Ays, where they awaited help for their plight from St. Augustine and Havana.

Clausen pointed out that it is known that in the years following the disaster, the Spanish re-

## Regulations Clarified For Wild Hog Hunting

CLARIFICATION of the Florida wild hog as a game animal has been released by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in reply to a resolution by the Citrus County Cattlemen's Association, and a number of inquiries from sportsmen. The Citrus County resolution points out that no wild hogs exist in Citrus County and that all hogs in the county are privately owned.

A free-roaming hog is not necessarily a wild hog or a game animal and hunters should use caution when hunting wild hogs. Wild hogs may be taken as game animals only during the open season designated for wild hog hunting on 14 Wildlife Management Areas and in Palm Beach, Levy and Alachua counties.

On these 14 areas, and in Palm Beach, Levy and Alachua counties, the wild hog is classified as a game animal and subject to the regulations and protection afforded other game species. A daily bag limit of one wild hog per day and two per season will be in force in all areas open to hog hunting except on the Camp Blanding Area where the season limit is four.

Outside the established areas and counties the Game Commission claims no jurisdiction over hogs of any kind, and feral or wild-roaming hogs are generally classified as private property. Hunting hogs on which there is a legitimate claim of private ownership, such as lands where valid hog claims are in effect, is an illegal activity and subject to civil action.

Before going hog hunting on lands other than the designated areas and counties, the hunter should always obtain permission from the landowner. It is also helpful to verify with the County Sheriff concerned to determine whether hog claims are in effect in the area selected for hunting and to determine the fact of ownership. ●

## A Horse For Recreation

# Rabbit For Education

By ERNEST SWIFT  
National Wildlife Federation

**M**ASS RECREATION which involves natural resources has a much more seductive interest for the general public than mass education relating to the management of those resources. In other words, mass recreation is outstripping mass education in the field of conservation. The lamentable part of this is the delusion fostered by private and public agencies—that when people are recreating they are benefiting the precepts of conservation. What a shabby delusion for our leadership to promote.

Whether we consider goods from the assembly line or the availability of resources for recreation, the public is the consumer in both instances; and the public figures that if it foots the bill it is entitled to all and sundry it may ask for regardless of any natural limitations.

Two other observations follow this sequence: The public is more interested in what it considers its rights than its obligations; and there is no overpowering mass-media demand for primeval aesthetics. People in general are not that philosophical. They are not purists. They would rather have an easy boat ride on a reservoir than down a rugged stream that entails danger and work. Because of this, there is chronic discord among those who class themselves as the arbitors for all that is good for the people and for conservation.

Mass recreation can boast of some current and definite accomplishments. As one of our now popular themes, it has politicians of all grades, sizes and abilities competing for the title of "Mr. Conservation;" and has innumerable public agencies often slighting their management obligations and bowing and scraping to transitory public whims.

Recreation has attracted large grants of public tax money which both politicians and agencies are clamoring to spend. Like hucksters, some develop some fancy brochures of enticement and resumes of projected programs.

Federal and state agencies keep reiterating that it is their solemn duty to meet the increasing recreational demands, but some are fast losing sight of the fact that their first duty is to protect and manage the resources, and that human desires must fit the scope of good husbandry. There are still some top grade professionals who understand this very fundamental lesson.

Responsibility to the resources as a citizens' public duty is a very uninspiring theme; it doesn't draw much water. But I note that where to hunt or fish, how to park a trailer, to launch a boat, cast a bait, fillet a fish, ride a horse, choose a sleeping bag, load gun shells or how to lace your shoes are pawned off by resource agencies, popular magazines and newspapers as conservation education. All these items may be of interest to someone, but they can hardly be called the hard-core of resource education. On the other hand, if people get out doors far enough and often enough something in regard to resource husbandry may rub off on them.

(Continued on page 35)

Photo Story  
By LOVETT WILLIAMS  
Game Management Division

in a



## *Coastal Rookery*



These photographs were made, on a single summer morning, in a single rookery that contained over 2,000 nests on a one acre island off Florida's east coast, near Port Orange. If you know your water birds you can pick out seven species in the photo above, including a Cormorant on its nest, in the upper right. Photos at left, and below, show the common or American Egret, a large white wading bird familiar throughout the state. It's hard to believe now that the Egret was nearly killed off in Florida by plume hunters—and it is no wonder—plumes were worth more than gold by weight.

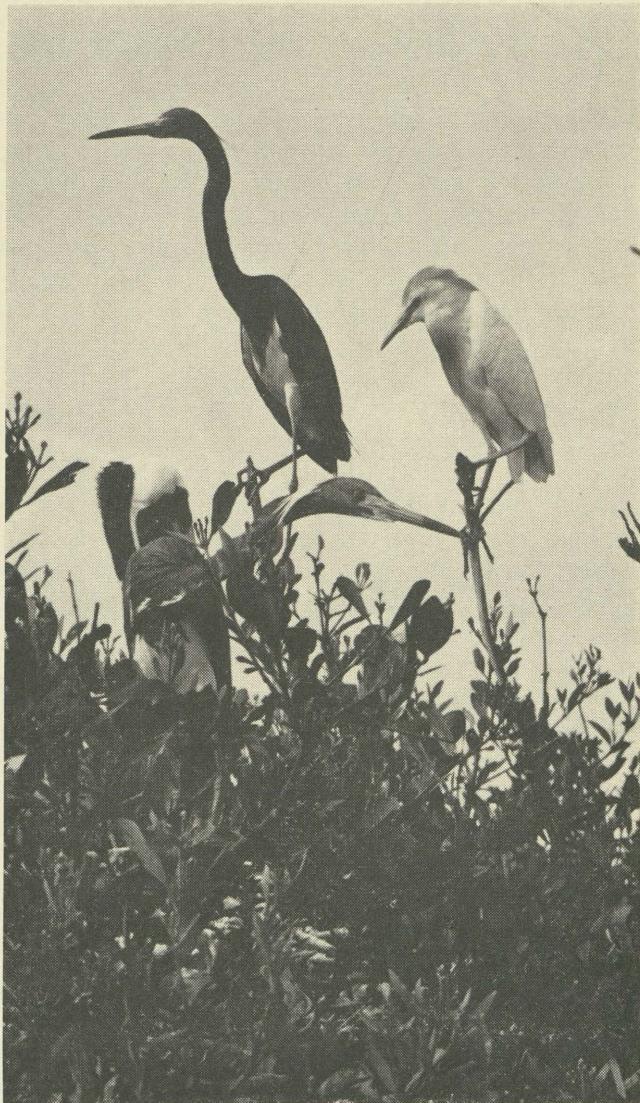




Brown Pelicans, above, with a Louisiana Heron, were once abundant on the Louisiana coast, but hardly a single nest could be found in the "Pelican State" two summers ago. They are almost gone from Texas too, but there has been no noticeable decline in Florida—yet! The cause is unknown.



The Little Blue Heron, dark bird above, nests more abundantly inland than on the coast, but the smaller white, yellow-billed Cattle Egret, white bird at right, will nest most anywhere. The Cattle Egret probably came to Florida and the Southern United States from South America, via the West Indies. It arrived there from Africa several years ago but nobody knows how. The Cattle Egret is spreading fast and is already the most abundant Heron in Florida. It doesn't eat fish but prefers insects and spiders. They will follow cattle around to grab at the insects that jump away from their moving about. The Louisiana Heron, the dark bird with white belly, at right, does not nest far from the coast.





By CHARLES WATERMAN

## Fish Finders

It depends on the size and style of the boat  
when it comes to stand-up bait casting

I SPENT SIXTEEN dollars for a knife the other day, one that I had my eye on for quite a while but knew I couldn't afford. It is a Buck folding job with a lock to keep it open and you carry it in a soft little leather sheath you don't even notice on your belt.

Undoubtedly I could have lived out the rest of my days without a sixteen-buck knife, having gone this far with dollar dandies and their relatives although I do have a couple of pretty fair hunting knives. When I learned from the folks who build them that the folding model is pretty scarce and hard to buy I made a beeline for one I knew about, the reported scarcity causing me to throw all judgement to the wind.

This is a pretty heavy number and shaves neatly and without pulling, just as it came from the store. Even so, the Bucks are considered moderate of price by those who are apt to hand out \$40 for some other custom and semi-custom makes. The heavy haft of this one will neatly kill a fish you're intending to clean and it's big enough you don't have to open it to whack the aforementioned fish noggan.

There is a lot of argument about what a fish or hunting knife should be, old timers generally scorning big bowie types as the weapons of tenderfeet. For general purposes they are too big but most pocket knives are too small for many outdoor purposes. The handiest filleting knives are long and slender and the easily bent boning type butcher knife is almost ideal for that purpose. Inexpensive fishing knives are okay if you stick to the longer ones. Some of the fine knives with full, round handles don't stay put too well on a boat seat or sloping rock.

Some of the sword-like bowie knives are too bulky for hangnail trimming or even fish cleaning if the subject is smaller than a trophy marlin but I can see use for them.

A guy shows up with one of those sabers on his belt and gets a snicker from all the veterans who carry pocket knives or short belt numbers—but often these old-timers tote hatchets or machetes which the bowie knife toter can do without. I think a big bowie knife would be real handy for some of the fishing trips I make but I'm a coward: I can't face the smiles of those who think I'm playing Daniel Boone.

A good compromise for a fisherman is a sheath knife with a fairly long and slender blade which will get by for heavier chores and still do a good job of fish cleaning.

But, as I say, I have a 16-dollar knife, roughly thirteen dollars more expensive than the ones I've used before.

FISHERMEN WHO SPEND a lot of time in boats, especially those of us who have reached the age where comfort is uncomfortably important, have gone to great length to buy, improvise or wish for special types of seats.

For trollers or still fishermen—and for some casters—a swivel arrangement is fine. A swivel seat enables you to do a variety of boat chores without getting up—cranking a small motor, digging in a tackle box or eating a lunch and using oars or paddle in some cases.

This is a fairly complex mechanism and flimsy ones don't last long. It's good to be able to hook such a seat into rigid position sometimes. If it swings easily and is mounted pretty high in a small boat it can be extremely dangerous. A surprise shove by a potent outboard motor can toss up the bow, whirl a sitter sidewise and deposit him across a gunwale or in the drink in less time than it takes to grab hold. Not an indictment of swivel boat seats—just a warning about improper use and installation.

Lots of homemade skiffs and some factory ones have the seats pretty high. It's comfortable that way because your legs aren't cramped but it changes the center of gravity, makes small craft skittish and simplifies the procedure of falling out on a sudden turn or atop a log that was in the wrong place.

One of my first boats was a narrow, 12-foot wooden flat bottom with the seats nailed across between the gunwales, same height as the sides of the boat. That gave my little gem all of the disadvantages of a canoe with none of the good points.

Ocean racers, you'll note from the pictures, stand up on a rough ride and soak up the wave shocks with their legs and bending knees. No one has worked much on shock-absorbing seats for small fishing skiffs. I recently made a bumpy 200-mile trip in a flat-bottomed one and had to stand up to keep from shortening my spine. Since the steering wheel was low and built for a sitting position, it was



Two handy knives for the fisherman. At left is a slender-bladed Case sheath knife that works fine for filleting as well as other outdoor jobs. At right is a sixteen-dollar Buck folding knife.

several days before I straightened to my usual majestic height.

I know a fellow who rides a lot in choppy water with an outboard boat and found it was rough on his entire constitution. His personal perch is now a flat, plywood board over mattress springs and with an unpadded back. The springs take up some of the worst thumps and, most of the time he doesn't even use a boat cushion.

Many classy runabouts have well-padded seats that are comfortable in a showroom but far too low for efficient use under way and everybody is familiar with the sight of an operator sitting on the back of the seat with his feet down in the cushions where his posterior would be so much more comfortable.

A runabout with seats that high might look funny but there's something wrong with the design when such a perch is preferred to the regular seat.

I have used a lot of aluminum seats which simply slip over straight board or aluminum boat seats all of them being very comfortable for steering, riding or rowing. None of them have lasted very well in whang bang use but I have no plans for improvement of them without making them excessively expensive. Light aluminum and canvas just won't stand up forever. I'd say get the best you can find.

LURES HAVE ALL SORTS of action and some of the most effective have none at all except a dogged movement through the water. The effective old torpedo plug with spinners fore and aft has those

little bits of glitter but, otherwise, is about as animated as a waterlogged cigar.

Some lures have what you might call a "double action," keeping up a constant vibration in addition to wider back and forth swings. Is this minute wiggle attractive? For that matter, do fish really notice it? I think yes, but not always.

The most unsuccessful plug I ever tested had one of the vibrating wiggles and some of the best had what seemed to me to be about the same habits. I do believe that, especially in fast moving lures, the attractive features may not be noticeable in casual human inspection.

---

GEORGE LAYCOCK's "The Alien Animals" (Natural History Press, \$4.95) should be good for the souls of amateur conservationists, many of whom believe if you plant more fish fishing will always be better and that introduction of Arctic grayling would be just swell in Lake Okeechobee.

Laycock, a good researcher and reliably factual writer, tells about the fishes, birds and beasties which have been introduced in new habitat by do-gooding mankind and how most of the unscientific transplants have given us a lion's tail to hold rather than a new gamefish or game animal. Most of us may have been aware of the majority of these cases but Laycock summarizes them so well that I read the book twice.

You'll cringe as you learn that carp were very expensive to introduce to this country and were greeted as a perfect game fish and finest of all seafood. Then there is the touching story of how the eager beavers managed to give good starts to the starling, English sparrow and nutria.

After a long list of biological strikeouts all over the globe, Laycock greets our imported brown trout as a success for fishermen and concedes the ring-neck pheasant, Hungarian partridge and chukkar are worthwhile game birds (although he mentions the fact that the ringneck kicks the hell out of every prairie chicken rooster he can find).

The important thing to learn is that introduction of new species *anywhere* shouldn't be taken lightly and that cautious biologists shouldn't be shoved when it comes to nudging nature around.

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ELECTRONIC FISH locating devices, now made in compact and highly portable models, are viewed as the *GREAT ANSWER* by some fishermen and scorned by others.

They're a big help at times and are the difference between success and failure in much offshore fishing. In fresh water lakes and streams and for inshore operations they are "sometime" things. I have used them but my experience is very limited and much of my comment comes from the opinions of others. This is something of a rerun but there

(Continued on next page)

*(Continued from preceding page)*

have been new questions about battery fish spotters.

Most of them are accurate depth indicators, invaluable in shallow water navigation because they can save all sorts of groundings and bent propellers. Most of the better small boat fishermen who use them are more interested in the finding of underwater obstructions, bars, drop-offs and specific types of bottom than in zeroing in on individual fish or schools of fish. The offshore party and charter boats rely on more complex indicators, frequently of the recording type and, through long experience, can locate individual fish and concentrations. Their interpretations of squiggly streaks on a piece of paper are amazing to me but their analysis of the bottom is what makes it a fishing trip rather than a boat ride.

The value of a depth indicator or depth finder (Fathometer is a trade name but I didn't know it until I read something by Jim Martenhoff of Miami) is very limited in shallow lake or river fishing where you're interested mainly in grass and weeds. Not many surface plug users work in water much over five or six feet deep (before you write me an irate letter, let me state that I, too, have seen a largemouth boom up from 20 feet to plaster a lure—but that isn't common). When you're probing deeper bottoms as in an impoundment, it's a different story.

So what about the listening devices that chirp, ping and twitter in recognition of underwater movements?

An example of one of the first small successful models is the Pflueger dingus which transmits all underwater movements through headphones and makes a big thing from the burp of a well fed cat-



The Pflueger portable, electronic fish hunter was one of the first available and has been successful both for fish-seeking and depth-finding. In use, the "transducer" is lowered into the water.

fish. It is eerily efficient at locating moving underwater objects although handicapped by moving water which makes a sound of its own. To get the most out of these listening devices you have to study them and figure out for yourself the difference between a snoring snapping turtle and a nervous stumpknocker. Frankly, most fishermen won't take the time to do this and I guess I'm one of them.

However, anybody can tell if there are a lot of fish in the immediate vicinity—an important conclusion in fishing areas where you're uncertain. There are some parts of any fresh water where there are practically no fish and other sections where they hang out in good numbers. If you know what an electronic device is saying in such places it's invaluable.

I doubt if you'll ever come to such conclusions as, "There's a 3-pound bass two feet west of that old stump."

These same sound devices can also be used for determining bottom conformation so can be a deadly device when you aren't quite sure where the drop-off is but know there are fish if you can find it.

If I have sounded less than enthusiastic about depth finders and indicators, it is only where they apply to shallow inshore or fresh water angling and there are some worthwhile applications in both areas. Take a look, read the literature and be your own judge.

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THE RUBBER SPIDER that began as a fly rod lure is showing up more and more behind a spinner on a spinning rod. It is hard to imagine a less ornamental lure but panfish seem to love it. Personally, I never found the rubber spider much of an attractor for bass—even small ones—but I see no reason why it shouldn't be. Of course one of its attractions is the softness of the foam rubber body which brings fish back for a repeat nibble.

---

AGAIN SOMEONE HAS broached the subject of standing up in a boat for casting purposes and numerous safety conscious writers have flatly stated that sitting down is the only way to fish.

In addition to the dire promises that a stander will fall overboard, there is much said about the dangers of a standing caster snagging his companions with a roundhouse swing or poking their eyes out with a rod tip.

Now having rowed some thousands of miles in boats of less than 16 feet of length, nearly always with someone casting in the bow and much of the time with someone casting from the stern, I can only say that, in my case, I'd much rather have a plug or fly cast above my head than on a level with my chin.

I have read that a standing caster can be instantly

Standing up in some boats might be dangerous but this plug caster is doing his stuff from a broad and steady platform in bow of the boat that was built for the job.

tagged as an incompetent greenhorn, a criticism that cuts me deeply after some 45 years of such dangerous bungling on my part. This puts all of my fishing buddies in the same light.

Now it all depends on the situation and the boat, of course, I've thus far been as pig-headed on the standing side as the other guys have been on the sitting side so I'll now be reasonable. There are many small waters, especially in Northern states, where the standard boats are too small for standing. Many of the little johnboats and prams used in Florida are too small for standing.

Standing in a canoe is a job for an expert canoeist and an experienced swimmer although I once fished with a St. Louis physician who would cast for hours with one foot on each gunwale of his 16-footer. Of course if he went overboard the water was warm and he was quite capable of swimming a couple of miles back to the dock, towing the canoe to boot and never draw a long breath. I simply point out that what was routinely safe for such an athlete might be foolhardy for an old gaffer like me or, even for him, under other circumstances.

Some boats are made to stand in. In fact, you'd have a devil of a time sitting and casting over the high sides of some of them.

I can't help remembering what Chuck Schilling of Jensen Beach once replied to criticism of a picture he was displaying. An experienced woman fisherman was standing on a broad casting platform in the bow of a sturdy boat and the critic said it was a dangerous practice to publicize.

"She could easily fall out," he said.

"She won't fall out!" snorted Chuck, and then he decided to make it a little stronger:

"And what's more, you couldn't push her out," he added as a clincher.

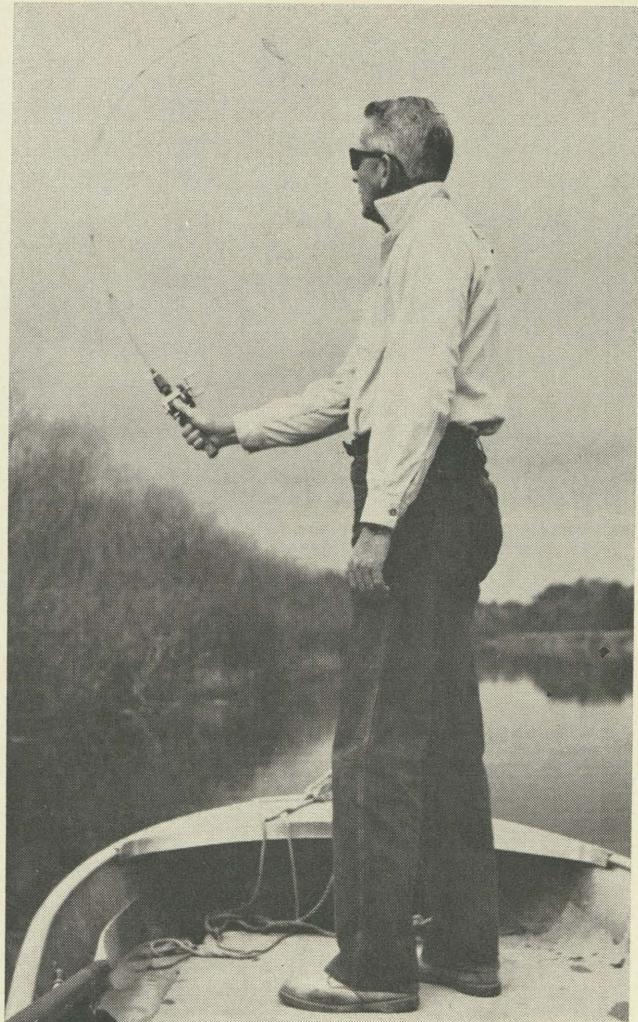
The best way I know of saying it is that some people make a living walking tightwires at high altitudes and some people fall off curbs and break their legs.

Me, I stand in husky skiffs over 14 feet long. I sit in canoes, rubber boats, 8-foot prams and kayaks and stay away from surfboards.

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HOOK DISGORGERS come in many forms but aren't used by many fishermen. If you'd keep one handy you might save more fishy careers when you release small ones; or big ones for that matter. They aren't much help with treble hooked lures. Needle-nosed pliers are good.

Sometimes a quick jerk does a fish less harm than a lot of fumbling and poking. That's especially true of tough-mouthed specimens that aren't hooked in the gills, and plug casters for tarpon sometimes



prefer hooks that will straighten out when given a healthy yank with a pair of pliers.

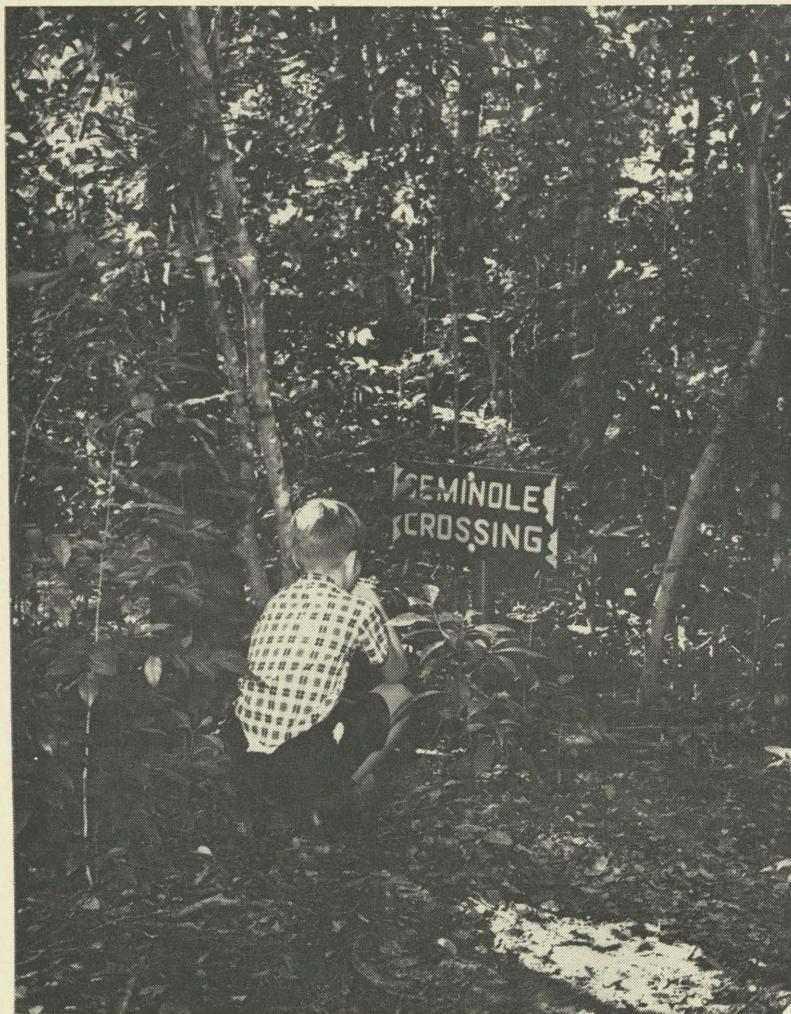
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OF ALL THE PANFISH, there seems to be least said about the "fly perch." I ran into them in Okefenokee Swamp where skillful bait fishermen were landing them, hand-size, by the dozen. Up there they are also called "green shiners" and just "shiners." They're shaped much like a bluegill with similar habits. We have quite a few of them in Florida, mainly in the northern part as nearly as I can learn.

John W. Woods, chief of the Fisheries Division, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, takes me off the hook on this one by saying the fish is called the "flyer" or "round flyer" in West Florida. Anyway, it isn't really a shiner. Mr. Woods points out that the American Fisheries Society Special Publication No. 2 lists 65 different species of shiner—which is something else again.

And to close the subject he provides me with the Latin name, "*Centrarchus macropterus (Lacepede)*."

Anyway, they'll take flies and small lures as well as bait. ●



Often threatened, but always  
protected, a few acres of  
primitive wilderness survive

a city's  
**ANCIENT  
FOREST**

By JOHN FIX

**W**ITHIN THE SHADOW of Miami's towering skyscrapers is a unique area of primitive beauty; eight acres of walled-in wilderness, the last vestige of virgin forest anywhere within the heart of a great American city.

The area is Simpson Park, named for a great botanist and dedicated to the preserving of one and a half city blocks of fascinating jungle from extinction.

Simpson Park (at Southwest 15th Road and Miami Avenue) is virtually unknown to Miami's millions of yearly visitors and far too few of the City's permanent population are aware of its existence.

Simpson Park is Miami-before-the-bite-of-the-bulldozer. It is the *FLORIDA PASCUAS* of old Juan Ponce de Leon and his adventurous *COMANEROS*. It is the hunting ground of the fierce Tequestas whose valor discouraged white colonization in South Florida for more than 400 years. It is the leafy lair of the buccaneers who scoured the Florida coast during long decades. It is sub-tropical America emerged from the blue waters of the Caribbean.

Simpson Park is not a park in any usual sense. To be sure, it has footpaths but many of these are confusingly overgrown or take erratic turns in deference to a venerable oak or a vine-entangled

ficus tree. The Park has benches too,—but not always discernible as such in the maze of jungle growth.

Simpson Park is an outdoor "botanical showcase" of a vanished era, when great forests (or Hammocks) covered the southern Florida peninsula and made it almost impossible of traversal.

Nowhere in Simpson Park has the delicate balance of Nature been permitted to be disturbed by the addition of plants or insects beneficial to man or by the destruction of those which might be harmful to man.

Enclosed within Simpson Park's 4-foot-high rough coral wall is more than 125 varieties of rare and beautiful trees such as thrive only in the American sub-tropics. Some of these trees have been in danger of extinction. One in particular, the *MISANTECA TRIANDRA*, a flowering ornamental, native to the Florida Everglades, has only two existing specimens on the United States mainland. Both of these are in Simpson Park.

Within the Park there is Wild Cinnamon, pungent of leaf and bark. There is Fiddlewood, never used for fiddles but with a leaf resembling the outline of one. And the Pigeon Plum and her sister, the Sea-Grape, both bearing edible fruit and both related to the buckwheat.

There is Inkwood whose sap the Seminole Indians use as a dye and which early settlers used as a writing fluid. And dread Machineel, poisonous to the touch and to the taste, used by the Indians of the Amazon Valley to make deadly their arrow tips, blow-gun darts and spear points.

Here and there throughout the Park the visitor will delight in a superb Gumbo Limbo, with shining cocoa-colored bark and sparse leafage. Someone once poetically likened this tree to a wildly gyrating dancing maiden who had been transfixed in bronze. And everywhere, clawing a roothold in the jagged coral that juts from the leafmold, or attempting to establish its deadly tenure in a rough-barked tree such as the Sabal Palmetto, is the weird Strangler Fig. All of the native trees are here, plus others which had wafted in on hurricane wind and ocean currents from lands across the sea. Many of the trees wear crowns of air-plants or are studded with wild orchids in all their exquisite blooming perfection.

Simpson Park had its beginning in 1924 when a group of civic minded Miami citizens, conscious of its obligation to future generations, induced the City to purchase five acres of rapidly vanishing hammock land to be preserved as Nature had intended it. The area purchased was christened "Jungle Park" and Charles Torrey Simpson, a noted botanist and specialist in sea-shells who had settled in the Miami area in 1904, was hired as its advisor. Later the name of the Park was changed to honor Dr. Simpson who died in 1933.

In 1937 a Garden Center, constructed of the same coral rock as the wall surrounding the park, was set in its northwest corner. The building with its auditorium, kitchens and a botanical library immediately became the meeting place of many of the garden clubs of the Greater Miami area.

An additional  $3\frac{3}{10}$  acres, last of the hammock land, was acquired in 1940 to bring the Park to its present spaciousness.

Simpson Park, hemmed in by luxury homes and modern office buildings and of a fantastic real estate valuation, is a remarkable monument to the courage and tenacity of the women garden club members who have waged an unceasing war to save this last vestige of primeval forest from extinction. A proposal to the Miami City Council in 1955, that half the Park be appropriated for construction of an historical museum, met with howls of protest from the ladies and a hasty retraction of the proposal.

Expressway plans during 1960 called for taking a huge slice off one corner of the Park. "Sorry," replied Expressway Planning officials in answer to protests from those who loved Simpson Park. "But nothing must stand in the way of modern progress!"

"Oh, no?" retorted the women garden club members and promptly stood in the way of modern progress. They enlisted the aid of Miami mens' garden club members. These in turn appealed to Miami radio and television stations and newspapers. "Save Simpson Park!" became a familiar cry for Miamians who for the first time were being made aware of the botanical heritage within walking distance of their city hall. Expressway plans were altered and Miami's East-West Expressway by-passes the area of the Park.

If your taste in public parks runs to broad vistas of velvety lawn, sculptured hedges, prim walks and stately trees, Simpson Park is not for you.

But if you delight in stepping into a domain where the whirr of traffic fades to an insect hum, muted by a blanket of leaves; where the Florida sunshine flecks downward on a world unspoiled by the hand of man, you will love Simpson Park. ●

Footpath crossings, above left, in Simpson Park bear fanciful names, such as "Seminole Crossing." It is difficult to believe that this spot is within a stone's throw of heavy big-city traffic. A four-foot-high coral fence, right, with vegetation spilling out over it, completely surrounds the city's ancient forest.





**A**T TIMES DURING HIS active hunting years, every hunter dreams of hunting a Shangri-la that is easy to reach, where his favorite species of game is known to be abundant and where a rival hunter will not likely materialize behind every approached brush patch.

The more imaginative go a little bit further and dream of being able to hunt a *variety* of game—quail, dove, waterfowl, wild turkey and deer—all in one locality; also without heavy rival hunting pressure.

For a group of Tampa area sportsmen the latter dream has come true. Hunting-wise, they have it made!

But their hunting Shangri-la didn't just happen. Circumstance played a part—true!—but so did a lot of planning and hard work.

Circumstances contributed to the motive: Individuals, with only limited hunting time from business and social obligations, had become tired of too many unsuccessful trips and the increasing hunting competition during the short periods they could get away.

Determination, plus planning  
and hard work, produced a  
dream-come-true hunting domain

## They Have It Made!

By EDMUND McLaurin

The planning and hard work started in March 1965, when a few decided to do something constructive about their hunting—by pooling resources and working out an adequate and well-managed non-commercial program of hunting activities.

Contacts were made with hunter friends and a date set for an organizational meeting. When a nucleus of interested sportsmen had assembled, reviewed and endorsed the proposal, group attitude was "Let's do it right, or not at all!"

From the beginning, an ambitious and comprehensive program was attempted.

First step was locating and leasing suitable acreage—preferably an area with a variety of native game and possibilities for development. The hopeful hunters found it near Dade City, Florida; 800 acres in all, and a resident family to operate their leased private hunting preserve. They named their fortunate find the Little River Ranch.

For those readers who wish to know the exact location of this powder burner's paradise, the Little River Ranch is just off Florida Highway No. 301, north of Dade City. From a road intersection known as Ridge Manor, the Ranch is 3½ miles north on No. 301, on the east side of the highway. Club lodge and recreation building, separate dormitory and dining hall can be seen as one approaches the sector.

From the highway, there is little indication of the variety of terrain that lies east, north and south. But only a short drive east, then a turn in either of the other directions, is needed to reach a hunter's choice of grain-developed dove fields, any of four quail hunting areas interspersed with brush and palmetto growth, a lake around which duck blinds have been built and natural foods encouraged, fringe swamp land where flocks of turkeys abound, and acreage on which numbered deer hunting stands have been built overlooking trails frequently used by big bucks.

Included among the first season's objectives were such steps as pen-raising 5,000 quail for field stocking; planting of five acres of brown-top millet as quail feed; planting of fifteen acres of feed for migratory dove; raising of 500 mallard ducks for release, to supplement duck shooting activity on days when uncooperative wild flocks choose to by-pass the club's corn field-bordered lake; release of a minimum of 25 wild turkeys, and the planting of five acres of feed to attract native birds; planting of ten acres of deer browse to attract deer to the ranch acreage for feeding and herd propagation, and

maintenance of a minimum of 15 squirrel feeders in wooded areas of the ranch.

In addition, 15 pointers, 6 deer hounds and 2 coon hounds had to be acquired, housed and field-trained. Ranch lodge and dormitory had to be readied for multiple occupancy. Several saddle horses, a Jeep and a ranch truck had to be provided for transportation.

Despite the gigantic task represented, these objectives were accomplished between initial meetings in March 1965 and first shooting in October of the same year—largely because every member cooperated fully and enthusiastically, once all phases had been argued pro and con and finally given majority vote for first season activation.

Names given some of the hunting spots by imaginative club secretary Andy Sabol would have delighted the hearts of those field and forest story-tellers, Havilah Babcock and Archibald Rutledge.

"Quail Hollow" and "Pointer Alley" are designations for two very productive quail hunting sections; "Gobbler Grove" is where the big toms strut; "Big Buck Lane" quickens the blood of a waiting deer hunter, and "Gunpowder Flats" descriptively captions the dove fields where passing flocks of doves execute tricky flight maneuvers and cause a lot of missing and subsequent alibis. Neatly lettered signs mark all named areas. (So do politely worded signs, explaining that the areas are leased lands of a *private* hunt club. If you want to hunt, you are expected to first make application and be accepted as a member.)

The club's leased lands include a maze of winding, cypress-knee studded creeks of the Withlacoochee.

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Photos By Lovett Williams



For turkey hunting, "Gobbler Grove" is where the big toms strut before admiring hens—and where fast get-aways are made at first suspicion of hunters in the area. Both native and released birds can be had.



Photo By Wallace Hughes

The Little River Ranch hunt club members enjoy excellent waterfowl shooting. A good set of decoys will often entice passing ducks to a waiting gun. At left, one down—and good eating ahead!

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coochee River. The moss-draped swamps are homes for uncounted number of raccoon and opossum families. The two species may be taken year around under Florida game laws.

On cool nights, club members put a couple of hounds on short leashes, pile into a Jeep and head for the swamps. Usually, it is only a matter of minutes until the dogs strike a hot trail that may be a short run or a long, twisting chase through bogs and briars.

Since simultaneous possession of a firearm and light in Florida woods at night is illegal, the hunters carry big nets instead of guns. When the dogs tree coon or opossum and the lights of the hunters locate the animal in a tree crotch, some member of the hunting party volunteers to climb the tree and dislodge the quarry for catchers waiting below with the nets.

Seldom do the hunters return to their lodge without at least one catch—plus a varied assortment of red bug bites, scratches, leg bruises and wet feet. Coon and opossum chasing along creeks of the Withlacoochee invariably is rough going!

On other nights, a lone hunter or a twosome will slip quietly into a swampy section and take station beside a tree trunk or patch of brush. Periodically, one of those raucous sounding “injured sea gull” varmint callers will be worked, followed by several minutes of motionless waiting in total darkness. A hand lantern will then be switched on and its

powerful, penetrating beam used to scan the vicinity. Quite often the probing light will be reflected from the eyes of some suddenly surprised animal, usually a coon or opossum, but sometimes a fox or bob cat.

On rare occasions a careful hunter can entice a meal-hunting coon within reach of a long-handled net, but most times the fun of calling up wild critters constitutes the action.

There are facilities at the Little River Ranch hunt club for holding special cook-outs, and family days are observed regularly. Each Wednesday and the third Sunday in each month of the entire hunting season are “Family Day.” On those days, a member may bring his *entire* family. However, he is responsible for their conduct and group safety. Guests are not allowed to hunt until arrangements have been made with the Huntmaster and a regular active member assigned to accompany them afield.

Other guest privileges are available to a member, but he may not bring a non-family member guest to the Ranch more than three times during the hunting season.

The first week end (Saturday and Sunday) of each open dove season period is restricted to members only.

Because the danger of a hunting accident increases proportionately in accordance with the number of active hunters, the club has enforced strict hunting safety rules from the very first.

All shooting has to be done under the supervision

of a Huntmaster. Only shotguns are permitted for bird and turkey hunting. Rifles and shotguns with rifled slug loads are allowed for deer and hog hunting only at the discretion of the Huntmaster.

Hunting parties for quail and rabbit cannot consist of more than three shooters, one of whom must serve in supervisory capacity to see that gun handling safety procedures are observed and that the hunting party maintains a straight line formation for added safety.

Duck hunting is limited to a maximum of four hunters shooting at one time, divided among blinds surrounding the lake on which waterfowl alight. Each duck hunting group also has a Huntmaster.

Prior to entering the club lodge and before climbing aboard any vehicle or mounting a horse, each hunter must make sure his gun is unloaded, give it a dry firing test and, finally, open its action as a positive safeguard. Guns taken indoors are required to be racked immediately, with actions open.

Members are further required to make sure of target identities and safe firing backgrounds when afield, and to forego any urge to point gun or bow at any object in simulated field action. Weapons can only be pointed at specific targets—and then only when at a shooting station.

Currently, the maximum membership has been set at 36 active status members. Where a vacancy permits new member application, the prospective member must be sponsored by an already enrolled active member in good standing. A minimum of 60% of the membership of record must be present to vote on the acceptance of a new member, and only a unanimous vote will put the prospect's name on the membership list.

Because the club depends on membership dues for operating expenses, non-payment of assessed dues is cause for automatic termination of club membership.

Dues are based on the scope of a season's hunting program, as previously scheduled and approved by the membership at the club's annual meeting, held in January of each year. Payment of annual dues may be staggered, but must be paid in full by October 1 of each year of membership.

The broad scope of hunting activity now followed at the Little River Ranch hunt club requires a minimum of \$400 per member per year. All membership dues are applied to operations. Officers serve without pay, and the firm of G. C. Graves Company, Inc., Tampa, is designated holder of legal title of club name and that of club guardian. The entire enterprise is a non-commercial undertaking . . .

Along with several varieties of quail, pheasants have been tried experimentally, but without much success. Released, unharvested birds have kept going, without sticking around to propagate their

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Photo By Lovett Williams

Each hunting season a minimum of 5,000 pen-raised quail are released to supplement native covies. Good deer hunting is included in the Little River Ranch variety of hunting fare.



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kind. What has happened to the released pheasants, the club members do not know, but they believe that the birds on the go have eventually been harvested through chance encounters with lucky hunters or captured by foraging predators.

The basic idea of the Little River Ranch hunt club's program—combined assets, interests and group fun on a non-profit operational basis—is a hunting season setup that other Florida sportsmen's groups could well activate on similar or smaller scale. There are many Florida farm and ranch lands that might be leased for seasonal use, if owners are approached.

Two requisites must mark any attempt, however. *Combined effort and work harmony are absolutely essential to success! . . .* The Little River Ranch hunt club group has proven that a successful hunting land operation for as many as 36 different personalities can be carried out.

It will be ideal if your group can locate and lease acreage sufficiently large and varied for an extensive, managed hunting program, but do not despair if you cannot find an area with all the desired physical features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant creation of a short period quail hunt.

For the latter, any brush covered acreage that spreads  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in four directions can be uti-

A hard-working dog receives a refreshing drink and kind words for a good field performance.



lized. A square with  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile sides and boundaries is established and marked. Quail are purchased and released in this area. Shortly before a hunt, five birds are taken to a corner of the marked square of hunting area and released, and at each of the other corners five more birds are put out. When the four corners of the square each have a complement of five released birds, five finalists are released in the very center of the area.

Hunting begins immediately—at one corner and progresses consecutively, like a baseball player covers bases. When all four corners of the hunt area have been covered, hunters and dogs move to the center of the square and hunt the five birds released there, plus those that escaped gun fire of the corner hunts and headed into the square. Finally, the outside fringes of the square can be hunted, to harvest any strays hiding in that cover.

This type of hunt, as stated, requires very little land area; is cheap and easy to stage, and permits high percentage harvest of birds released.

Besides hunter activation, this small scale quail hunting program is one which any Florida farmer with suitable acreage could seasonally operate as a profitable sideline. The farmer could raise or purchase quail stock, for sale to, and on-premises release by, hunting parties comprising not more than three guns.

The landowner could either double the production cost of his pen-raised birds and make no extra charge for a half a day of hunting on his acreage (in a boundary marked area), or sell birds at cost and charge each hunter an extra flat fee for land-use privileges for that particular hunt.

This would literally be a miniature version pay-as-you-go shooting preserve, but without the overhead or headaches of the larger enterprises. Not all farmers have the large acreage, capital and know-how that profitable operation of a large paid shooting preserve demands.

Another sportsmen sponsored, or farmer controlled, small scale hunting operation could be the planned setting aside of a field solely for Fall dove shooting and developing it as such by planting it with late season maturing, dove-attracting grains. Come Fall, the leasing sportsmen, or the foresighted farmer, could make the dove field pay dividends.

May your own group's efforts to establish a private hunt club be endowed with the spirit and success of the Little River Ranch hunt club. There, close bonds of friendship exist among members; hunting jealousy and visible disappointments are notably absent. Consideration of fellow members is such that a meal is never begun until all in attendance are seated at the table.

As a non-member would say, "They have it made!" But, here again, members of the Little River Ranch hunt club are not unmindful of their blessings; grace is humbly said at every meal. ●

# Sheltered Waters

**S**HELTERED WATER is something many Florida fishermen take for granted and can be the difference between a day's sport and a restless weather watch.

In the minds of many fisherman, salt water means the open sea and big boats but many Florida visitors catch big salt water species for days from small craft and go home without ever seeing the open Gulf or the Atlantic. Any boat worth hauling to the scene will serve in much of Florida's best fishing waters and the well salted canoe is no novelty while a pram or johnboat can be just the thing for back country tidal creeks and rivers and many good-sized bays.

Perhaps the widest sweeps of protected waters are in the Keys on the lower Gulf Coast but there's sheltered fishing all the way around.

These inshore fishes aren't ocean castoffs either and some of the most prized angling trophies are nearly always taken near shore. Salt water trout or weakfish, year around, state around favorites, run biggest on the lower and central east coast and in early autumn wading for them is at its best. The angler can use almost any tackle, spinning, plugging or fly, and live bait works too. Trout are even thicker on the Gulf side although they run somewhat smaller.

Right along with the trout are channel bass or redfish and, in the South, snook come on the same flats or are caught in mangrove rivers, passes and creeks.

Where there are mangroves there are likely to be mangrove snapper and all sorts of inshore species.

The coast is geared to this fishing and for every client of the chromed charter boat there are several fisherman who act as their own captains with their own small outboards or rental skiffs, available almost everywhere there's a suitable harbor.

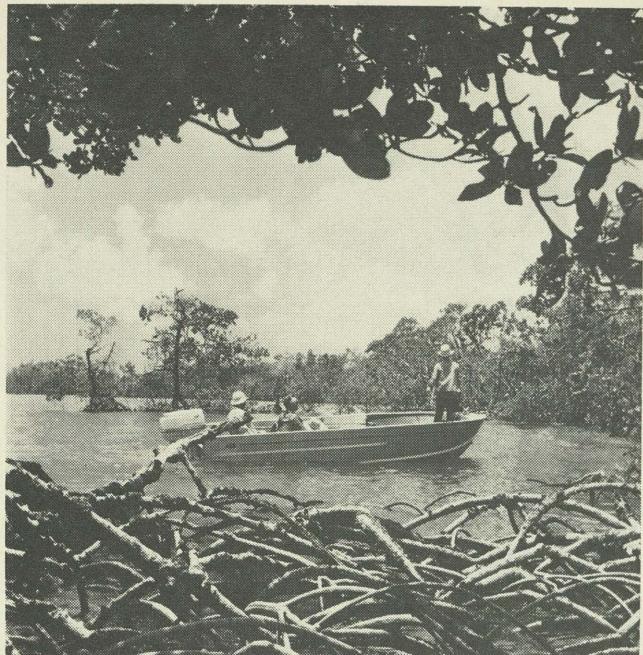
So confined to windless water is much of the fishing that one midwestern salt water angler said he thought he'd take a day off.

"I'd kind of like to see the ocean before I go home," he said.

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A lot of Florida fish die of old age without ever having a chance at a bait or lure. The reason is that they're living just a little off the beaten path.

Generally "off the beaten path" in Florida means small water—miniature lakes or streams or brackish bays. Often these spots are easily reached but even the local experts may not know about them. One well-known east coast angling authority recently announced he'd found a whole new fishing



It's a windy day on the Gulf of Mexico, but these fishermen have protected water a hundred yards away.

area near his home. It was simply a series of little canals no one had bothered with and although the water was small the fish weren't. He and his companion caught and released 115 snook on fly rods, rounding out their score by turning back 14 small tarpon too. The same type of thing happens on black bass all the time.

Not all isolated fishing water is loaded and it's easy to become discouraged after stomping around the swamps for a few days without locating a fishing bonanza but a little investigation won't hurt anyone.

Many Florida visitors are so dazzled by enormous expanses of water that they never think to try little bays or creeks, exactly the type of water they might love back home; and it's generally easier to fish small water than big water.

Small outboard motors and little boats are just as good in Florida as anywhere else and more and more fisherman bring their own rigs. Nothing beats a cartopper or a canoe in a narrow canal or a backwoods pond.

Some of the biggest thrills in fishing are the heartfelt chug of a black bass's strike in a quiet little pool or the blood-chilling crashes of a 100-pound tarpon leaping in a narrow creek.

Down on the southwest coast of Florida you can fish for big salt water fish in creeks barely wide enough to cast in. On the east coast you can move along miles of man-made canals that seldom see a fisherman. You need a guide on some of these waters but on many you can go it alone.

So the moral is that if you like to fish the little water you needn't change your ways just because you come to Florida. ●



Research is needed — from a fish's eye view — to determine their natural water quality requirements

**I**F THE FRESH-WATER game fish of Florida were capable of the thought and the action, they'd stand on their tails and applaud the new Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission building at Eustis.

Called the Fisheries Research Laboratory, facilities and personnel there will take the guesswork out of the types and amounts of pollutants detrimental to the well-being of fish and other aquatic life.

Public health officials have long ago established water-quality standards for humans. Yet, odd as it may seem, some water which people can drink, ski on, and swim in with no threat to their health cannot support an adequate game fish population.

The new facility will look at the state's fresh waters from a fish's eye view.

One of the most foolproof ways to eliminate any species of wildlife is to change its environment—as we are doing daily in Florida by mis-use of our water. Using and returning it in an undesirable state and adding vast amounts of chemicals, particularly nutrients, to an already down-graded water are showing their effects.

With tourism worth over two billion annually

## ***Fisheries***

and with a majority of these people attracted to Florida because of their interest in being near or on the water, the continued abuse of these waters is already producing hardships, particularly in the sport-fishing industry.

But without a sound basis for determining specifically which substances are harmful, no satisfactory remedy can be presented.

This matter of pollution, or water quality, is extremely complex. For example, tolerances toward chemicals or other substances may vary between species of fish and even within the same species of fish. Some substances may cause an immediate and definite reaction. Others may be more subtle, building up eventually to affect a species. Or its propagation. Or one substance may only become harmful in the presence of another.

An architect's presentation, above, of Florida's new research laboratory. Construction of the mid-state facility, right, is nearing completion, and studies will soon start to solve complex problems resulting from the ever-increasing threats to fresh water; its natural quality, far right, fish and aquatic life.

The new lab will attempt to arrive at the answers regarding the standards of water quality requirements as they pertain to fish and other aquatic life, will supply the means by which these water-quality standards may be determined, and will investigate the factors affecting these requirements.

Once standards are determined, these criteria will be of significance when it comes to legal action being taken against the polluting offenders. In a court of law, such standards can be a firm basis for legal action.

Backed by Eustis City Officials and the Lake County Board of Commissioners, and with some foresight, the lab is centrally located where it can serve all of Florida. Also, it is situated on the Lake Apopka Chain of Lakes which will be under intensive study. An up-to-date launching ramp area is nearby, and the five-acre site connects to Lake Eustis by the Sunset Island Canal. In addition to regular collection methods, plans are for a Commission float plane to collect and to deliver water and bottom samples directly to the lab site.

Anson/Grove/Haack & Associates of Fort Lauderdale designed the building and Harvey Spears, General Contractor, of Eustis is the builder.

Cost of the 6,800 square foot building plus the 3,840 square foot storage area for boats and equipment—all completely finished and landscaped—will be in the neighborhood of \$142,000. This money will come from the Fishing Improvement Fund derived from that extra dollar tacked onto fishing licenses back in July, 1963 (See *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*, July, 1966).

About \$35,000 worth of specialized equipment is planned for the building, this money partially derived through federal aid.

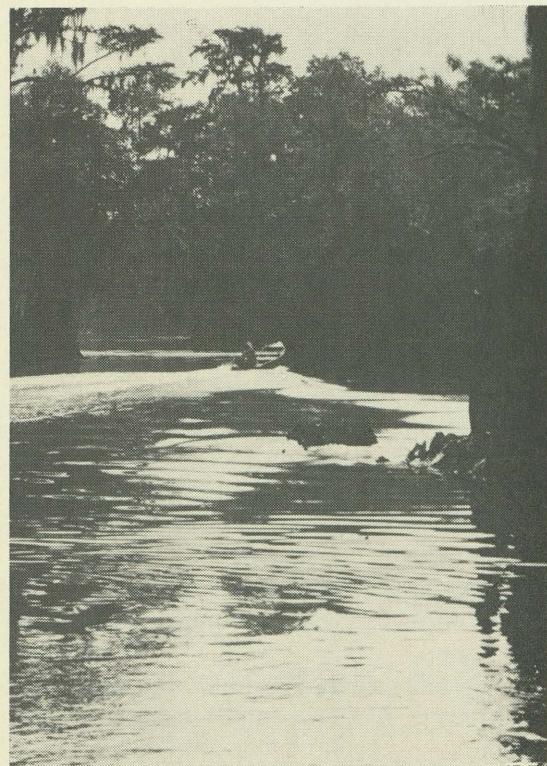
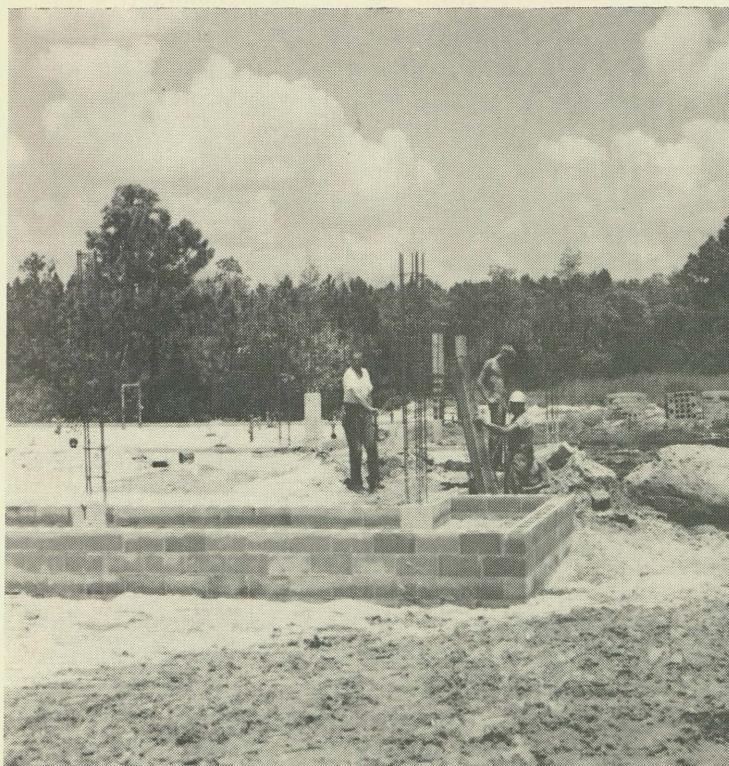
Essentially for chemical research, the new lab will have many features for this pursuit. Such features include drainpipes of acid-proof glass or acid-resistant Duriron, a costly vitreous ventilating hood, no-skid lab floors containing Carborundum, and acoustical ceilings to keep noise at a minimum. The building will be virtually fireproof due to its concrete block and stucco construction and the pre-stressed concrete roof structures.

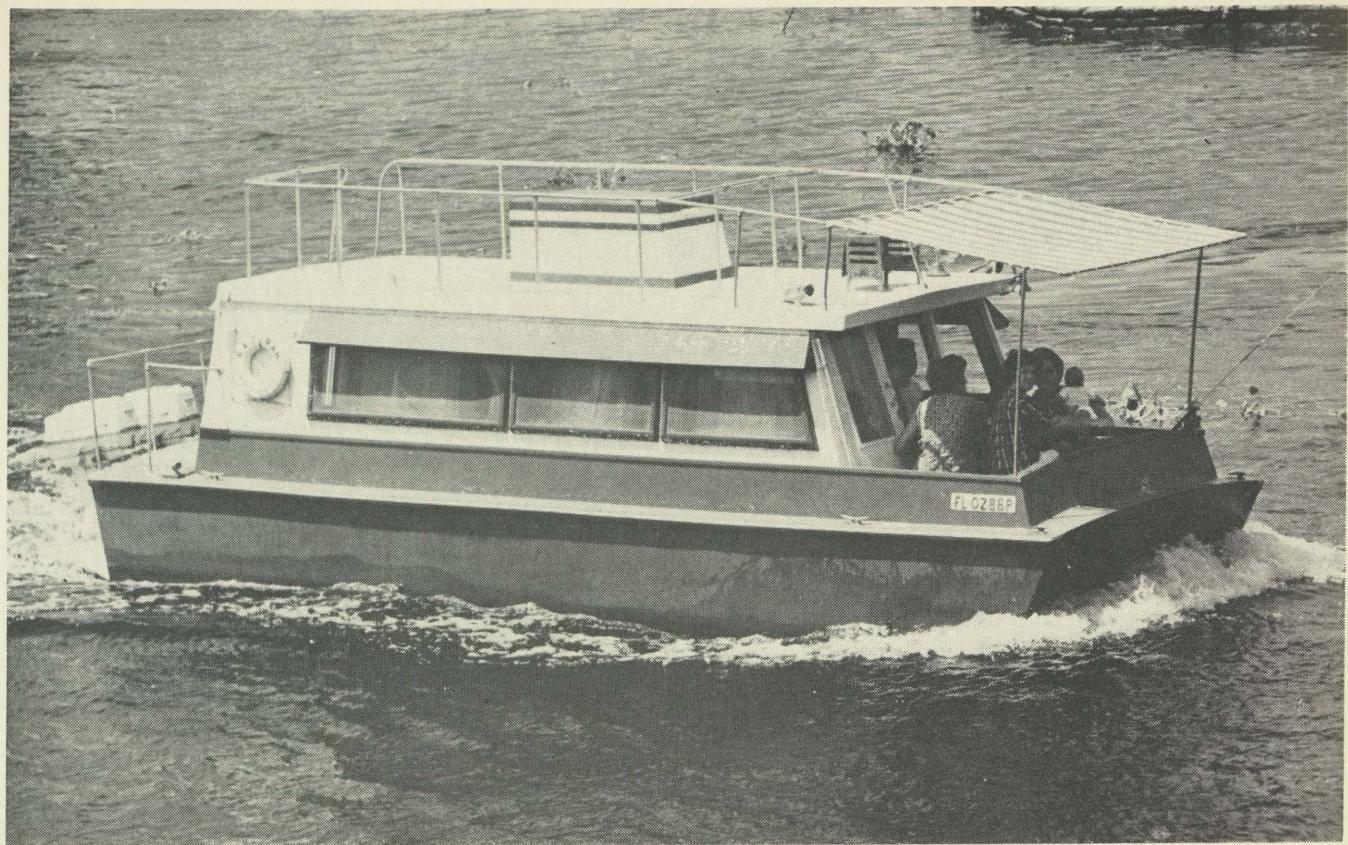
Air conditioning will be of the chilled water type.

Hailed as a "first" in the state, the Fisheries Research Laboratory, scheduled for completion in late November, is being viewed with pride, anticipation, and thanksgiving by man and "fish" alike. ●

# Research Laboratory

By ART HUTT





Rugged, although not particularly speedy, this houseboat uses dual installation of outboard motors.

House-boating—a year around Florida fun-thing—has reached the variety level with models and performance to meet many styles of floating demands

## Florida

MANY DREAMS CONTAIN houseboats, which spell independence, relaxation, a bit of adventure and some hard to come by solitude.

Most of the dreams are just a little hazy, the dreamers being somewhat vague as to what a houseboat is, what it can do and a lot of other things about it.

Some people should own houseboats and some shouldn't and the name covers a lot of floating things from a shack on barrels to a mansion that requires tug service when it moves.

"House lighters" that line shores of some Florida harbors often stay moored for years at a time and some of them sit on the mud at low tide. Some others have hulls that will get up on top and plane like runabouts. I have friends who use the motorless type as fishing camps and some of them look a little funny but have served that purpose for a long time.

Let's talk about the kind that moves under its own power and that might appeal to Florida fishermen.

Don't confuse houseboats with offshore cruisers. Most of them aren't made for heavy seas so they have relatively shallow hulls, don't draw much water and, for the most part, won't maneuver as tightly as equally heavy craft with more complicated bottoms but these are the boats with the most living room for the money, for the length and for the horsepower. There can be all kinds of headroom and sun bathing space. The interior is apt to look a lot like home—or a fine house trailer.

We once bought a houseboat twenty some feet long for Shark River fishing. I had an uncontrollable desire to live down in the West Coast Everglades and catch snook, black bass and tarpon until my arms hurt.

This was quite a while back and a 25-horse motor was about as big as they came so that's what we had on our houseboat. The idea was to tow a skiff or two some 30 miles down into the mangrove swamp from Everglades City, stay there and fish a week at a time, so we did. There were a few little hitches any houseboat dreamer should hear about.



A houseboat of medium size which is trailered without difficulty. It employs a 55-horsepower motor.

# House-Boating

By CHARLES WATERMAN

For one thing, the 25-horse motor we used was fine for smooth water but didn't cut the mustard so well when the wind blew. In a test run we found we couldn't turn into the wind (too much cabin to catch and nothing but a flat bottom to turn with).

We also learned that our motor was a little sluggish when it came to backing down and the clumsy controls were lousy. When I'd try to shift into reverse, the engine would die. Since we had no electric starter. I'd then have to leap off my pilot's stool and yank frantically on the pull rope, often while the houseboat and its contents headed remorselessly toward a dock or somebody's shiny cruiser. Many of my dockings were crash landings and whoever went ashore with a line checked for damage as soon as he had secured.

My usual berth was in a tidal river and if I came in with the tide I didn't have the power to turn into it in such close quarters. It became standard procedure for anyone who happened to be on the dock to throw me any rope that happened to be ly-

ing around. All hands on the houseboat would be throwing lines in the other direction and someone once stated it would be easier to shoot me down as I came past.

Launching that houseboat was a major operation and I spent a hundred bucks for a frame to hoist her in and out. Her plywood hull began to leak and bilge pumping became a regular chore several times a day.

She was not one of my better investments and, although we had some wonderful fishing from her and the living was comfortable we later figured we could have chartered a cruiser, crew, skiffs and guides for less money for the time we were afloat. We liquidated.

Boats are better now, of course. No one would produce a job like that now. No one would buy it if he did.

But, man, you should see some of the new ones! For about ten grand you can live it up and

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for a lot less you can get a pontoon boat with any kind of bungalow. The payments can be easy too.

Most buyers or renters of houseboats are not serious sailors. Generally their experience has been limited to small outboard boats. Most users of houseboats are bent on family pleasure and a floating home for non-fishermen is fine while serious anglers are off in a smaller craft.

Although some houseboats will get up and scoot, it isn't necessary. Still, don't go underpowered for the job. You need some horses for maneuvering and reverse gear is often a weak spot when you're trying to kill headway toward a dock. Big houseboats that travel a lot can employ inboard engines with outdrive installations. Outboards are simple to install and can be removed for service and repair. Dual engines give you a spare in case of a breakdown although the controls are more complex. An auxiliary motor mounted beside a main power plant suits some users. It isn't started unless something goes wrong with Number One.

It doesn't take too much in the way of seamanship to handle a houseboat in appropriate waters and most of them are used where it's sheltered but things work much more smoothly if there's a crew member in addition to the skipper when it comes to anchoring or docking and occasionally when under way.

I once started down through the mangrove Everglades alone with our little gem and towing a fishing boat. Others were to join me later. The entire trip was to be through sheltered rivers and small bays so a bit of wind was nothing to worry about.

The cockpit was back of the cabin itself and the operator could look across the cabin roof to see where he was going. That's a nice arrangement in one respect because the skipper is close to the motor. However, there was no canopy over me and a sudden thundershower caught me in a stretch of fast moving river where I couldn't duck for shelter.

Oh well! A little warm rain won't hurt anybody.

It was quite a shower. In fact it showered so hard I couldn't see my island landmarks a hundred yards away. I cut the throttle and barely moved along because I knew it couldn't rain that hard for long, there not being that much water in the world. If I'd held my speed I'd have gotten lost and probably bumped around over some oyster bars and skinned my prop.

It didn't rain very long but before it stopped a little breeze came up and I estimated it at approximately 70 miles an hour from the direction I was headed.

Before taking off I'd neatly piled some equipment on the forward end of the cabin roof and



It took lots of gasoline to fish for a week in the Everglades and most of it was stored on the foredeck. This is an old plywood boat that saw service almost 15 years ago. Note kerosene lantern on top.

these items began to pass me at considerable speed. Some newly installed metal shade screens left the cabin ports ("windows" to you landlubbers) and came by with interesting whistling noises.

I had one brand new tarpaulin I'd spent twelve bucks for just before leaving the dock and it left its place up forward and came by within reach. With one hand still on the wheel I reached up and caught a corner of my new tarp which straightened out in the breeze with a strident crack and nearly yanked me overboard to sternward. And thus I finished the squall one fist grimly clutching the wheel, the other latched to the end of a gracefully streaming tarp. Both arms have been longer since that day.

The rain stopped, the wind quit and out came the sun. The towed skiff was heavy with rain water, the houseboat needed bailing and the outboard continued to putt contentedly. I hadn't lost my way but the new shade screens were gone forever. Another crew member would have been handy.

With that boat we had 110-volt lighting but our little generating plant had a primitive muffler and great enthusiasm. It simply sat on a bench in the cockpit and shrieked defiance to the Everglades. The vibrations from it hadn't been completely dampened either. In fact, it was hard to focus your eyes while it was running and it tended to make your teeth hurt. We also had a 6-volt battery that could be charged by the little engine but rather than listen to it run we comprised on a Coleman gasoline lantern.

We hung the lantern from a hook in the center of the cabin and somebody knocked it off once but

it lived up to its reputation for safety and nothing happened. We used a kerosene lantern for a topside light at anchor.

That first houseboat business was a pretty safety equipment was concerned. Probably the chief hazard was bumping your head on a fire extinguisher.

We had sense enough to get a good anchor and plenty of good anchor line, something that's good for any houseboat user to remember. When we were out we usually anchored in small bays and set our hook in solidly by backing down a little to make sure it was holding against plenty of line. A houseboat offers a lot of wind surface and anchorage is important. We stayed away from the shoreline to avoid mosquitoes and catch the breeze. We usually lay in water just deep enough to float use at low tide. We kept a good battery radio aboard to get weather news.

Despite all of my grumbling about the hull-scraping and painting we did have a lot of fun. In one of our favorite bays there was a lot of fluorescence at night and the gafftopsail catfish were thick.

You could toss bits of bread overboard and see them moving majestically up to it like overdone, futuristic fish in glowing outline. Their high dorsals and long, forked tails made the illusion better yet and on a cloudy night when you couldn't tell where the water surface began the show was especially good. I guess it was worth the trouble. We spent a week on that boat once and never saw but one other fisherman.

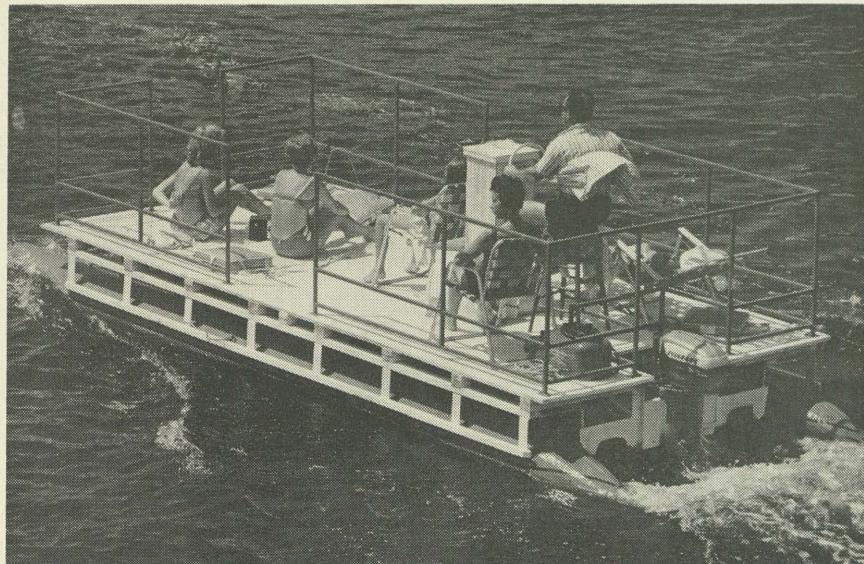
A disadvantage of big houseboats is that they're generally pretty rough to trailer. Some builders have met this objection with amphibious rigs which can be used as house trailers on land and then take off under their own power when launched.

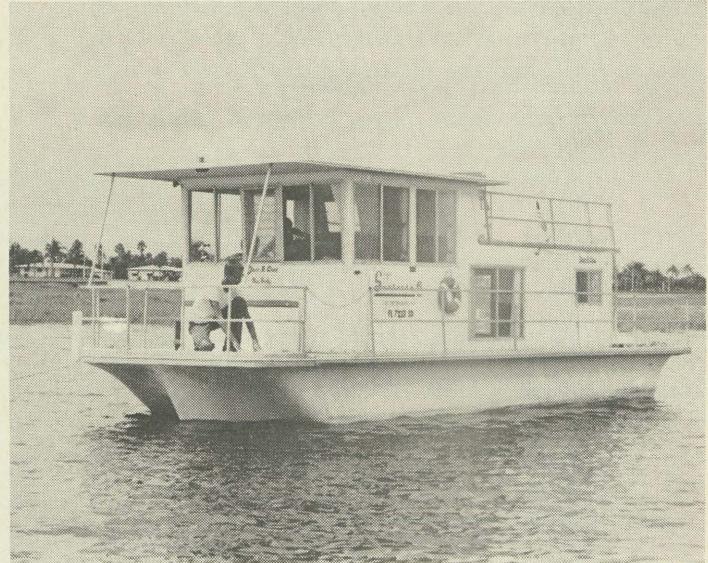
Few owners of really large houseboats plan to take them from one body of water to another by trailer and most owners have no trailer, hauling their boats out for service the same as they would with a big cruiser.

Of recent years there has been a move toward renting houseboats for long or short periods and that's usually cheaper than outright purchase if you

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This isn't a houseboat, at right, but the pontoon craft is ideally adapted to all sorts of cabins, and even tents. A floating sundeck, it moves right along with a 15-horse outboard motor. A dream setup, below, for a fishing party, this is a large job towing a skiff. Note the roomy and comfortable topside sundeck.





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bother to use a pencil. Pride of ownership has cost most of us a lot of money at one time or another.

So now I'm going to give some free advertising to one of the rental outfits. Their approach seems original to me and I'll explain this one operation rather than touching on several.

They're Surfside 6, Inc., Maxim Moorings Marina, St. Petersburg, Florida, and started out with boats at St. Petersburg and Kissimmee with plans for others at widely scattered points. Anyone picking up a boat at St. Pete has the inland waterway from Tarpon Springs to Fort Myers. From Kissimmee, he can cover a number of lakes and travel sheltered water down to Lake Okeechobee.

The boat they showed me was a 30-foot Drift-R-Cruz, built at Gallatin, Tenn., and powered by a pair of 45-horse outboards. If I have a criticism of

it, I'd say it might be a little fancy to keep cleaned up when used by active family vacationers but that's the problem of the folks who maintain it and not that of the user.

As rented this boat would cost about \$10,000, complete with motors. It has wall-to-wall carpeting, butane cooking and light and can be plugged in to city current at dockside or can use 12-volt batteries. It sleeps six and when the beds aren't made up there's a lot of room in the cabin. There's a sundeck up topside and a catwalk with railing all around. This is pretty de luxe for a traveling boat in the rental class.

Extras would include air conditioning, television and a pram to be used as a tender at added cost.

From Friday noon until Monday noon it can be rented for \$125 and the weekly rate is \$225. Now those rates appear reasonable and include all galley

utensils and linens as well as liability and property damage insurance.

Without trying to discourage those who really want to buy their own I'd say you'd have to use a boat quite a bit to save money by a conventional purchase of anything this well equipped. Now then, Surfside 6 has something else in a buy and lease plan. The principle is that an individual makes a down payment on a boat and then leases it back to the company so it can be rented to other users when the owner doesn't need it.

This enables a purchaser to get aboard his own boat without a large investment; then he can get a tax break by putting it to work through Surfside 6 and at the same time use it for a maximum of eight weeks a year at a pretty low cost with the deal set up on a 5-year plan. He also sheds maintenance burdens and, of course, the company gets another boat to lease with small investment.

Probably the best part of this plan is an arrangement whereby a boat owner who doesn't want to do his cruising on the waters where his craft is located can go to another location instead and use somebody else's boat during his vacation. Thus, the Doe family might buy a boat at St. Petersburg for use in that area but might prefer to spend a vacation at Kissimmee or in the Bahamas, in which case they could pick up a boat at a new location.

Now just how good this part of the deal is will depend on how far the operation spreads out. A short survey indicated that eight weeks is a liberal period for use by the average family. Of course the owner of a boat would have to make reservations and there are some restrictions as to the time of

year he would use part of his two months' occupancy.

At the end of five years the purchaser would have clear title to his boat and I won't go into the figures more than to say this is a much cheaper way than planking down ten thousand bucks.

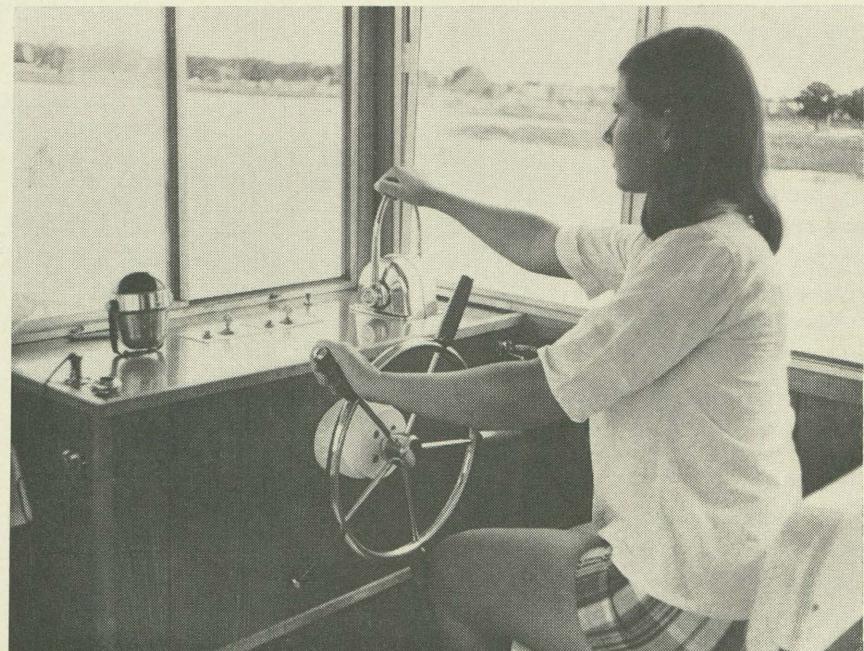
As I said, fishing seems to have been a secondary purpose thus far. There has been little demand for auxiliary boats. Of course many families would own a family runabout or utility that they could take along for skiing or fishing.

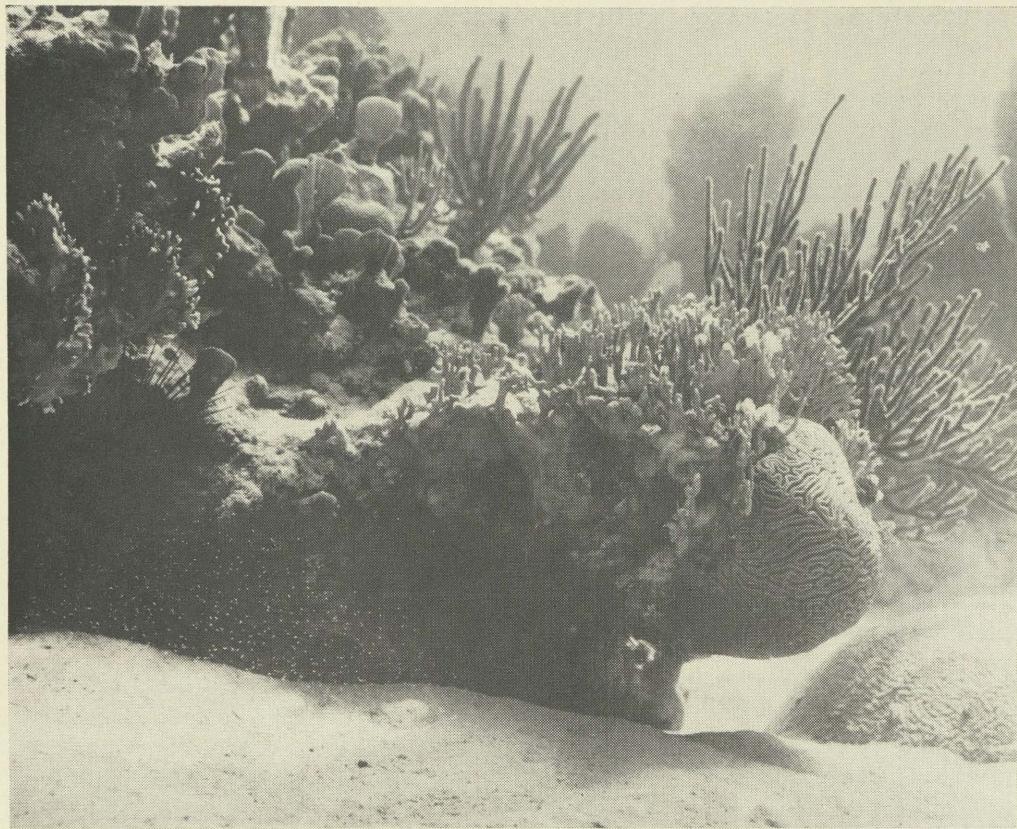
I can see a rental unit as a good bet for a party of fishermen wanting to live with the fish for a few days. Various types of houseboats have been especially popular with Keys fishermen who are a considerable distance from a dock but in sheltered waters. Houseboats there have been used by guides as bases of operation as well as by families—both owned and rented.

Actual fishing from the deck of a houseboat isn't exactly a flexible method but I've seen houseboats trolling for shad, drifting for crappie and anchored off black bass schooling grounds. I have seen school bass fishermen who stayed aboard a houseboat and kept a lookout posted. When the "jump bass" got busy the fishermen would stage a combat stations maneuver and grab their rods previously located somewhere on deck. We've hooked tarpon from a houseboat and have caught fish on lines trolled while under way but that's not what they're made for.

As the name indicates, it's a "house" not a skiff. A lot of operational bugs have been chased out of these things in the past 10 years. ●

Three views, above left, of the thirty foot Drift-R-Cruz rental boat. When it comes to family-type recreation the houseboat is a sure fun-craft. Note the Kissimmee swimming party at top. The Drift-R-Cruz, right, has efficient controls for two outboard motors. Throttles are at right, the compass at left, switches and starters at center. Operator is in the bow with excellent visibility. A plug-in cord at left leads to hand-light.





Along the entire  
coastal regions of  
Florida, skindivers  
can seek and find  
whatever may  
interest them most

## DOWN DEEP VIEW

**H**Ighlighted by the only underwater state park in the United States, Florida offers skindivers a rich variety of diving thrills.

The Sunshine State has the only live coral reefs in North America, outstanding visibility, literally hundreds of wrecks and some of the finest diving springs and snorkeling rivers in the world.

The favorite of thousands of amateur and professional divers each year is John D. Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in the Atlantic along the northern Florida Keys.

The Reef is so close to the mainland that commercial shell collectors, tropical fish hunters and, finally, spearfishermen threatened to destroy the ecology. Conservationists and organizations such as the National Audubon Society supported a movement to make the whole reef a protected area.

The park was proclaimed a permanent preserve by both the state and federal governments in 1959 and in 1963 was opened to the public. Forty species of coral are found in the park as well as great numbers and varieties of fish.

The reef park is just one spot for salt water diving along the thousands of miles of coastline. From the ocean near Jacksonville where the giant jewfish peer from caves to the grouper and cobia areas of the Panhandle, skindivers can find what interests them most.

Although ocean diving starts off the northeast coast, the water becomes warmer and clearer the farther south the diver goes. Favorite diving and spearfishing spots are Daytona Beach, Cape Kennedy, Sebastian Inlet, Vero Beach, Fort Pierce,

Stuart, Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton and off Fort Lauderdale.

The string of islands which make up Miami Beach and the residential and park areas to the south are favorite spots for both novice and experienced divers.

Visibility is fair down to the lower east coast and then conditions vary with the state of the tide. From the middle of the Miami Beach area south visibility increases. Just north of the Coral Reef park very clear water begins with visibilities up to 100 feet normal.

This condition prevails all down the island chain known as the Florida Keys. In this area are places inaccessible except by boat and the sightseeing and spearfishing is unexcelled. Thirty miles west of Key West are the Marquesas Islands and 40 miles farther are the Dry Tortugas, both excellent skin diving areas.

Gulf diving actually starts in this area and for the most part the bottom is fairly shallow with rocky patches. Farther north along the Panhandle coast the diving is better with reefs and an abundance of game fish.

The visibility is very good in the summer, ranging from 60 to 100 feet, but in the winter the water is murky with visibilities decreasing to 15 feet.

From May to October, this area rivals any other in spearfishing and wreck diving.

For the adventurer or the amateur or professional archeologist and paleontologist Florida fresh water diving is unequalled.

Springs, rivers, lakes, underwater caves and giant

These photos were taken in the crystal clear waters of John Pennekamp State Park off Key Largo. Through the waters one can see tropical fish swimming unmolested in surroundings of multi-color coral reefs and ship wreck skeletons from back through the centuries. This area is in the only underwater park to be found in the country.



sinkholes are found throughout the northern and central part of the state.

Water temperature requires the use of a wet suit, varying from 68 degrees in springs and caves to only 75 in rivers and lakes.

Springs, caves and sinkholes attract the most divers because of the adventure and underwater scenes.

North and central Florida has a limestone base, honeycombed with underground rivers containing the runoff from the land masses to the north. These subterranean waters come to the surface in the springs or are revealed when the limestone falls in to form caves and sinkholes.

Crystal clear surface water often conceals thousands of feet of twisting caverns. A small pool in a pasture may conceal a huge grotto. In most of them can be found prehistoric fossils.

The rivers and springs were the routes of travel and sites of settlements for Indians and white men when the New World was man's frontier. Artifacts from the past are found by every diver.

For the amateur or the professional, Florida offers the widest variety of underwater excitement. Winter or summer the salt and fresh waters of the Sunshine State provide all that can be asked of them. ●



In addition to the public boating facilities at the John Pennekamp Park off Key Largo, glass-bottom boats transport visitors over a true fairyland of the sea with its variety of fantastic marine life.

# Autumn Camping

**V**ACATION TIME FOR MANY families is now a thing of the past, but some smart folks have managed to restrain themselves until the cooler, quieter days of fall.

Campers who saved their vacations until now are really in luck at Florida State Parks. For a camper who wants to get away from it all, there are state parks tailor-made for the job.

And for a budget vacation they're just the ticket—a campsite costs only \$24.84 for a two-week stay.

Two of the parks, Suwannee River State Park off US 90 between Live Oak and Madison, and Lake Griffin State Park at Fruitland Park three miles above Leesburg, are easily accessible from Interstate 75.

In the Florida "panhandle" are Three Rivers State Park one mile north of Sneads just above Jim Woodruff Dam where the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers meet to form Lake Seminole (best reached from US 90), and Torreya State Park on the east bank of the Apalachicola River 13 miles northeast of Bristol.

All four of the parks are somewhat off the beaten path and away from busy beaches and large cities, so are among those less frequented by campers, especially on weekdays during the "off" season—from just after Labor Day through April. They are ideal for the serious camper who wants to get back to nature, and if photography is your hobby, bring a camera, you may get some great nature and wildlife shots.

Fresh water fishing is a feature of all four of the parks (state license required) with boat ramps provided at all but Torreya, where bank fishing in the river is the sport. Both Lake Griffin (reached by a 1000 foot canal from the boat basin at the park) and Lake Seminole and the river below the dam are known for good fishing. Boat rentals are available at Three Rivers, too. The Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers which meet in Suwannee River Park, are exceptionally beautiful for just drifting, though they, too, are noted for fishing.

Visitors can enjoy skin and scuba diving at Suwannee River and at Three Rivers, and swimming facilities are being readied for next year at Suwannee River Park.

Lake Griffin is one of the largest lakes in central Florida and ties into the Oklawaha River and Silver Springs. It is famous for its "floating" islands—masses of vegetation which actually move about in the water. Water skiing is allowed here, too, and the surrounding marshes are a bird watcher's paradise. There are 46 campsites in the shady camp-ground.

Campers using the 40 campsites at Suwannee River can gratify their taste for history, scenery or

just plain outdoor fun in the park's 1,838 acres which take in some well-preserved earthworks of a Confederate fort which guarded the railroad bridge over the Suwannee, objective of Federal forces from Jacksonville which were finally repulsed in the Battle of Olustee to the east.

There are nature trails thru the varied terrain including a bridge over a woody glen called "Limesink Run" just upstream from the picnic area.

At Three Rivers violets and trillium grow beneath the tall pines and hardwood trees on the high sloping banks of the lake and nature trails lead through other parts of the park's 682 acres. Three Rivers has 45 campsites.

Incidentally, this area had a large Indian population in the days of Florida's prehistory, as shown by archeological explorations carried out before the completion of the dam in 1952.

Named for the rare Torreya tree which is native only within a 20 mile radius of the park, Torreya Park is in a hilly section, unusual for Florida. Also found on its heavily wooded hills are the rare Florida yew, the Ashe magnolia and the herbaceous plant Croomia, all adding botanical appeal.

For historic interest there is the Gregory House built about 1835 and furnished simply but elegantly with pieces appropriate to the period. Six Confederate gunpits, their connecting trenches and ammunition pits are also visible, a reminder that the Apalachicola River was an important waterway during the Civil War.

Nature trails lead through the woods (there is even a water fall) and visitors frequently catch glimpses of wild turkeys that inhabit the area in large numbers. There are 45 campsites at Torreya, and the added fun of playground equipment for the children at the picnic area.

All parks have facilities for tent and trailer camping including restrooms with toilets, lavatories, hot and cold showers and laundry tubs. Electric hook-ups, tables and grills and vending machines are available.

All are occupied on a first-come-first-served basis with no advance reservations. Stays are limited to two weeks and standard camping rules for Florida parks are in force; no intoxicants, no pets, no weapons. Fees are \$2.06 per night per campsite with an additional 25 cents a night for electricity, if used.

A two-week stay in any or all of these parks will provide a memorable interlude of serenity, scenery and camping fun whatever time of year you choose to visit them.

The Florida Board of Parks at Tallahassee will be glad to answer questions and furnish additional information on these or any other Florida State Parks. ●



Numerous shotgun models are now being choke-bored to especially handle rifled slugs in good fashion

By EDMUND McLAURIN

**E**VEN A CASUAL observer in any heavily hunted deer hunting area in Florida is sure to note the preponderence of 12 gauge shotguns in the hands of hunters.

For hunting white-tail deer in the thick woods and swamp lands of the South, the versatile 12 gauge has always been a popular weapon, and rightly so.

The shotgun is admirably adapted to the short range, snap shooting style characteristic of deer hunting in the thickly wooded South. Loaded with buck shot or rifled slug, it is an effective big game weapon!

Aside from personal choice, shotguns are also frequently being used of necessity for deer and black bear hunting.

Lamentable though the trend may be, the fact is that more and more states are putting the taboo on high power rifles for big game hunting and are designating "shotguns only." Florida is still a relatively "open" state, but even so, some areas are already restricted to use of shotguns only. Projectiles may be either rifled slug type or buck shot or a combination of both. . . .

The theory is that use of shotguns with either rifled slugs or buck shot in a hunter-congested area is safer than use of high power rifles. The theory is fine, but actual hunting doesn't support the theory. . . .

It is true that a bullet from a high power rifle can travel much farther than a rifled slug or a load of buck shot. But at the average deer or bear hunting ground level over which shots are made, a bullet has a relatively short flight, because of trajectory and possible intervening trees.

The same is true of a rifled slug or a charge of buck shot. A rifled slug can travel as much as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, and a load of Size 00 buck shot can cover some 610 yards, but like a bullet fired almost parallel to the ground at a target usually under 100 yards, seldom do.

However, within average deer and bear hunting ranges, either a rifled slug or a load of buck shot can be very potent. At short range, a rifled slug (actually a bullet of about .68 caliber) has enough energy to penetrate an automobile engine block. The lead pellets contained in a 12 gauge shell loaded with Size 00 buck shot are each larger in diameter than a

.30 caliber bullet and as deadly, even though they do not weigh as much individually nor have as much energy. Buck shot tend to scatter in a wide pattern seeking a target, and find paths through thick brush. Those pellets that connect with live tissue at close range deliver shock and energy that is squared progressively!

Also, any hunter concealed in, or on the other side of, brush into which a load of buck shot is fired, must be lucky to escape dangerous contact with anywhere from nine to 27 lethal pellets—depending on shotgun gauge and size of buck shot used! Compare those odds with the contact possibility of a single projectile, like a bullet or rifled slug. . . .

The gun manufacturers have been quick to note increasing hunting restrictions on high power rifles, and in self defense have been fast bringing out special shotgun models specifically designed to handle rifled slugs and buck shot.

Ithaca makes the "Deerslayer" pump-action repeater model, in 12, 16 and 20 gauge, and with choice of either 26 inch barrel or one of 20 inches, bored especially for rifled slugs. The "Deerslayer" comes with further choice of either open rear sight or adjustable receiver type peep sight. Sling swivels are standard equipment.

Remington's Model 870R "Brushmaster," slightly different version of the Model 870 pump, comes with a 20 inch length barrel bored to handle both rifled slugs and buck shot in reliable manner. The model is available in 12 gauge only, and comes fitted with rifle type open sights. For those who prefer an auto-loader, Remington makes the Model 1100 in deer

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The rifled shotgun slug is really a big, hollow base bullet. Rifling on its sides gives it slow spin and better stability in flight. At short range, the rifled slug packs a powerful punch.



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gun version, for optimum results with rifled slugs or buck shot.

High Standard manufactures its "Supermatic" autoloading shotgun in special deer hunter's model, in 12 gauge only and with rifle type front and rear sights.

Winchester markets its Model 1400 12 gauge autoloader in a deer hunting model, including combination of open sights.

Browning has a "Buck Special" model autoloader, complete with rifle type sights and leather carrying sling.

The Mossberg Model 500 pump-action shotgun comes in a "Slugster" model, with its own special slug-shooting barrel.

The Franchi (Italian import) line includes an autoloader with a barrel made expressly to handle rifled slugs with accuracy.

There are other shotgun models made especially for use with rifled slugs, but those described are generally the best known and most used.

Actually, many regular model pump and autoloading upland game guns of Improved Cylinder or Modified choke barrel boring will handle rifled slugs with surprising accuracy, when fitted with rifle type peep sight and correctly sighted-in.

Side-by-side doubles, with tubes factory adjusted to have centers of shot charges merge approximately to point of aim at 40 yards, cannot be included. The offset of the axis of each bore, and the resulting crossing of line of sight and shot patterns at 40 yards, usually means erratic slug performance.

There are exceptions. Sometimes one barrel of a double will put a rifled slug to point of aim at 40 yards. But it is a rare double barrel piece that will give reliable slug performance from both barrels to a common point of aim.

From a single barrel shotgun fitted with good and readily adjustable sights, a rifled slug will often deliver almost rifle accuracy up to 75 yards. If the shotgun is sighted-in for a hunting range at 50 yards, flight path of a rifled slug will be only about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch high at 25 yards, and only about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches low of impact at 75 yards, and about 7 inches low at 100 yards. Trajectory thus would not be much of a problem until the range exceeded 80 yards.

If the shotgun were sighted-in so that slugs hit 2 inches high at 50 yards, it should shoot rifled slugs only about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches low at 100 yards and probably make hits of aim somewhere around 90 yards.

The figures are based on trajectory from 26 inch or longer shotgun barrels, but are acceptably accurate for the slightly lower velocities resulting from use of shorter barrels.

In all, there are at least twenty different styles of shotgun slugs currently on the market, but the American manufacturers and the German-made



Photo By Gene Smith

For upland bird hunting, the performance of a special slug-shooting shotgun will depend on the make selected to use also with small shot.

Brenneke are best known and more readily available. The two types will do whatever might be required under normal hunting conditions and ranges. The American type slug is too well known to need description here.

The R. W. S. German-made Brenneke has a gas-sealing wad permanently screwed to the base of a conical, straight shouldered lead slug slightly larger in diameter than American rivals. The base of the Brenneke, like most American slugs, has a hollow. This hollowed base assures safe and easy swaging in shotgun bore and also helps keep the slug's heavier nose head on during flight. Also, like most American rivals, the Brenneke slug has slightly angled swaged ribs, to give the slug slow rotation and to better stabilize the projectile in flight. Some authorities regard the Brenneke as being a bit superior in accuracy to American-made rifled slugs.

Several of the better quality peep style shotgun sights are of detachable type, to permit conversion of weapon from deer hunting class to gun for upland game.

Shooters often worry about choke damage that may result from firing rifled slugs through tightly choked shotgun barrels. They needn't . . . .

In the cement industry it is customary to fire rifled slugs to loosen slag that accumulates in hot rotary kilns. So far, there have been no reports of shotgun barrel choke boring being affected by al-

most daily firing of more rifled slugs than the average shooter ever uses. . . .

The average inside diameter of the tightest boring in an American-made 12 gauge is .729", while the overall diameter of our largest commercially-made rifled slug is around .690" size. This means that a rifled slug of correct gauge is considerably smaller than the average shotgun barrel of corresponding gauge, and can easily pass through the tightest choke.

Also, if there were any real tightness at all, the soft lead and readily compressible ribs of the hollow rifled slug would easily swage down without hurting choke one bit.

The only possible trouble that might ever be encountered would be the rifled slug striking the compensator vents of an improperly aligned selective choke muzzle device and even that would be more in the nature of a scraping contact rather than destruction. Also, the installation of the muzzle-attached choke control tube would have to be a pretty sloppy gunsmithing job for any damaging action to take place.

How do the special slug-shooting models perform when used with loads of small size shot—say, Size 7½—for upland bird hunting? Performance depends on which make of slug-shooting shotgun you choose to also use with small shot.

Ithaca advises that the equivalent of Improved Cylinder patterns will be obtained from its model. Remington says the same. High Standard reports likelihood of more open patterns—the equivalent of standard Cylinder barrel boring. Browning claims its small shot patterns will be about as tight as obtained from normal Modified choke. Mossberg reports an expected small shot performance of 35 per cent at 40 yards. Winchester and Franchi failed to answer my inquiries, but a few pattern targets will quickly tell the performance story for each make.

Common center of shot patterns obtained with small shot over a 40 yard test range will rarely correspond with the same center of pattern for a group of fired rifled slugs, because of differences in recoil and vibration effect on the shotgun barrel, and physical differences of the dissimilar loads.

Being heavier than the individual pellets of a load of small shot, the rifled slug will lose velocity less rapidly and, consequently, has a slightly faster flight time than the individual pellets of small size shot. Buck shot, heavier than bird shot but still lighter than a rifled slug, have a flight time between that of slugs and small shot, again with a difference in registered center of pattern impact.

Whatever the make, model and choke boring of shotgun used, you cannot fire a single rifled slug at a pattern target, then assume that a pattern of small shot will automatically take the slug's hole as common center of impact, or that buck shot and bird shot will register in like manner.

The only way to truly evaluate performance is to fire the different loads—rifled slug, buck shot and small bird shot—over the same distance at a common target on which hits will register and can be studied.

A READER WRITES asking if there will be any felt shortage of sporting guns and ammunition because of the increasing seriousness and scope of this country's embroilment in the Viet Nam conflict. The answer is definitely "Yes!"

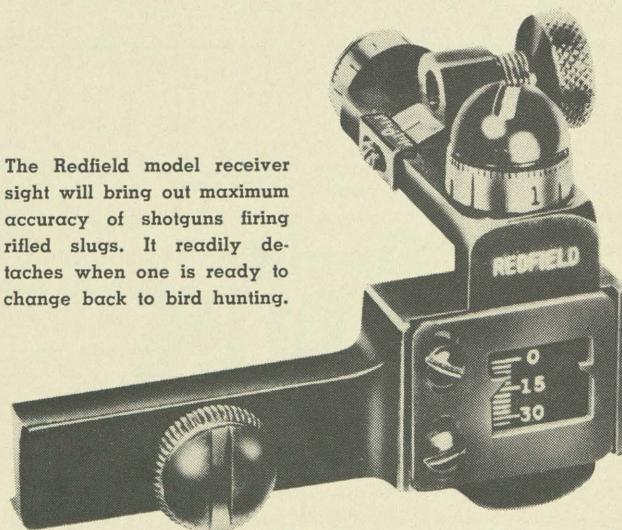
For some 25 years previous, the United States literally wasted its supply of surplus, but serviceable, shoulder arms by giveaways to friendly foreign nations and by destroying surplus inventories. We even gave away most of our fine Garand M1's.

The Viet Nam conflict found the United States with a serious shortage of small arms. In consequence, in the Colt Company has been hastily producing the M-16 rifle, and has just been given an order for another 100,000. Remington Arms and Federal Cartridge companies have been called on to produce millions of rounds of ammunition. Other firearms and ammunition manufacturers are sure to get Government contracts. Obviously, war needs are fast taking precedence over manufacture of sporting arms and ammunition.

Retail dealers say that traveling Smith & Wesson representatives are now making what practically constitutes "mere courtesy calls." The representatives reportedly will take an order, but make no promise of delivery. Some dealers say they haven't had any new Smith & Wesson target grade .22 and .38 caliber handguns in months.

There are still plenty of hunting rifles and shotguns in retail sporting goods stores' stocks, but there may not be abundance of all models, and some models are already scarce or absent entirely.

If there is a moral to this sad story, it is to purchase the gun of your dreams now, while it can still be had, along with a reasonable supply of ammunition for it. •



The Redfield model receiver sight will bring out maximum accuracy of shotguns firing rifled slugs. It readily detaches when one is ready to change back to bird hunting.

## CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

in helping to educate the very young on the wonders of nature, wildlife, and the world around them."

McGregor pointed out that there are 35 million boys and girls in this age group throughout the United States. He emphasized that leading educators are convinced that a child achieves 70 percent of his adult intelligence by the time he becomes seven years of age. "With seven out of every ten Americans now living in urban areas," he said, "it is becoming increasingly difficult to teach youngsters the values of natural resource management and conservation. The pressures of modern living in cities and suburbs have all but eliminated schooling in outdoor living and the traditional, pioneer-type experiences in America's open spaces which led to the greatness of our society. We believe this new effort by the Federation will open new doors to learning and recapture opportunities for our children to appreciate and actively participate in our efforts to manage and conserve our soils, waters, forests and wildlife."

Children enrolling in the new program will be issued a membership card, pin and decal. They will be encouraged and shown how to organize a Ranger Rick's Nature Club in their own neighborhoods, as well as be provided

with opportunities to acquire outstanding books on nature and conservation, plus other educational materials.

To be issued each month except July and August, RANGER RICK'S NATURE MAGAZINE will be patterned after NATIONAL WILDLIFE magazine published by the Federation for its 220,000 associate members. Due off-press by mid-December this year, the first issue will feature articles about Alaskan brown bear cubs, the work of snow rangers employed by the U. S. Forest Service, animal hibernation, and other entertaining, educational aspects of the outdoor world. Each issue of the magazine will contain suggestions and instructions on things to make and things to do in nature study and conservation, plus games, puzzles, riddles and other proven learning techniques enjoyed by youngsters.

Complete details and information about this new educational program and RANGER RICK'S NATURE MAGAZINE are available by writing the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. 20036.

### Firearms Propaganda

THE ANTI-FIREARMS propagandists are constantly trying to hang an extremist tag on those of us who love guns and shooting. This smear campaign would lead the public to believe that every shooter is a secret member

of a private army, ready to march on Washington if the income tax and Social Security aren't repealed.

It's the infamous "big lie" technique all over again. Up to now it doesn't seem to have scared anybody very much—unless it's the anti-gun people themselves.

Fortunately, there's not a word of truth to it. Which is just as well. We'd be in big trouble if 20 or 25 million sportsmen were really plotting to overthrow the government.

Actually, people who like guns come in every shade of the political spectrum. Many have no political coloration at all.

Feelings on firearms legislation run deep, but it's not a matter of Democrats versus Republicans, liberals versus conservatives, or even city fellers against country boys.

Some of our greatest champions in Congress are outstanding liberals; some are strong conservatives. That's the way it should be.

We're united in opposition to unduly restrictive firearms laws. Some of us see a need for some further restrictions, particularly on sales of concealable weapons; others want no additional laws.

Above all, we must not let any party or political ideology make this *their* issue. It happened in one state: now they've got the worst firearms law in the country.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW

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36 Issues \$6.25

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine**  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

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The State Cabinet recently committed to the Florida Park Board \$60,000 for a new construction project at Bahia Honda State Park and \$84,975 for a new construction project at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

State Parks Director Bill Miller said construction for Bahia Honda State Park will include 2 campers' comfort stations, an entrance station and a shop and equipment shelter.

Construction for John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park will include a combination bathhouse and concession building, picnic shelters and a shop and equipment shelter. Also included in the project will be a bathing beach.

The project at Bahia Honda State Park is part of a \$95,000 improvement program now underway there. Improvements planned for John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park this year will cost \$187,000.

Both parks are located in the keys and Monroe county. Bahia Honda is the southernmost state owned campground and wildlife reservation within the continental United States. There are rare tropical plants here that can be found nowhere else in this country.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is 55 miles south of Miami on Key Largo off U. S. 1.

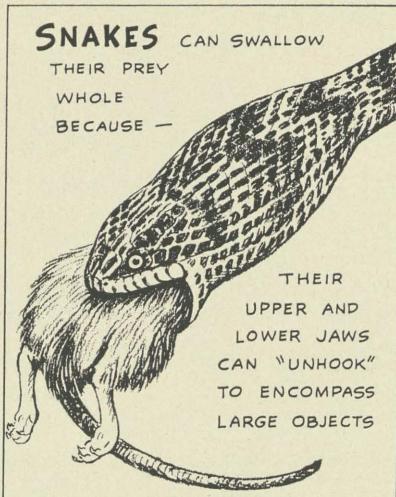
### Wildlife Sanctuary

THROUGH THE generosity of W. T. Cox of Orlando and his wife, Bertha H. Cox, the Florida Audubon Society has been deeded 43 acres of woodland in the northern part of Orange County for use as a wildlife sanctuary and nature center. The land is a quarter section plus three additional

#### MOVING?

If you are planning to move, please send notification four weeks before changing address. Send your address label from a current issue, plus your NEW address. This will ensure continued subscription service.

### Nature Notes



acres in the middle of the Holiday Highlands development. It is surrounded by open land and citrus groves, and is near Round Lake, the Round Lake Road providing convenient access to the property. The nearest towns are Tangerine and Zellwood situated at the edge of extensive muckland farms.

The Audubon acquisition has tree growth typical of the region: oak, myrtle, sweet bay, and palmetto, and Mr. Cox also planted hundreds of pines which are making good growth. Bobwhite, Mourning and Ground Doves, Loggerhead Shrikes, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Redwinged Blackbirds, inhabit the area while occasional Bald Eagles and Red-shouldered Hawks soar overhead. Fox squirrels and rabbits are among the mammals observed there.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Plunkett of the Orange Audubon Chapter knew that the Society had been looking for a local property on which the Chapter might establish conservation projects, and the Cox gift is the result of their help in this search.

Mr. Cox expressed himself as delighted that he could present this desirable wildlife habitat to the Florida Audubon Society for he has enjoyed watching the Bobwhite and other birds make use of it over the years, and he believes future residents of Holiday Highlands will welcome this spot of green near their properties. ●

### RABBIT FOR EDUCATION

(Continued from page 5)

Certainly there is a notable increase of public debate regarding pollution, pesticides, littering, preservation of such natural wonders as the Grand Canyon and the Redwoods. It shows that people are beginning to sense some of the more basic issues over and beyond personal desires. Whatever their stand, the debate is healthy. It is a form of education. The old saying about one horse and one rabbit still is valid; however, one horse for recreation, one rabbit for fundamentals.

It is well to remember that the money spent on recreation or on any form of rehabilitation must come from those resources which are still productive and plentiful—from our rich lands, our crops, cattle, minerals and forests. We are taking the raw resources which we still have left, converting them to trade goods and using the profits to bring back into some form of productivity areas and resources which have deteriorated from neglect and abuse. A good example of this is the sizeable budget which Congress has authorized for pollution control. The raw wealth of the Nation at large must be put to work to support pollution control.

It should also be remembered that extensive recreation is only possible when the economy of the country is prosperous. It will die on the vine with a recession, because it produces no article of trade. Another question which can be asked is, "How much of our capital resources must be spent in restoring abused areas?" It is more important that the public be apprised of some of these problems than the most efficient way to pitch a tent or patch a pair of waders. ●

#### WARNING!

Check your address imprint on the current issue of this magazine. If Zip Code does not appear, please send complete address soon as possible. Magazine mailings must have Zip Code Number by Dec. 31, 1966.

# Boat Docking

BOATING

For smooth docking operations, it takes patience plus knowing how to "use" the wind and water currents

By ELGIN WHITE



THIS IS THE TIME of the year when traffic on the famous Intracoastal waterway starts getting a little thick.

And, as is the case with auto traffic in this wide land of ours, the fantastic increase in the number of pleasure boats in America will soon make the "intracoastal" as busy as Times Square at five o'clock.

With improved waterways and facilities all along the Florida coast, the day is long gone when boatmen were somewhat wary of bringing their craft to Florida via the waterway. Time was, and it wasn't too long ago, either that yacht owners just moth-balled the big cruiser in the winter and headed for Florida via train and car. Nowadays, he cranks his boat up, plans a leisurely trip down the aqua-ribbon, and finds more than adequate ports of call all along the way.

And usually, upon arrival in south Florida, he finds the finest lineup of marinas that can be found anywhere in the world.

One of those marinas, and probably one of the better known in the world, is famous Bahia Mar in Fort Lauderdale. Irv Deibert is GM of BM now, and the big yachting center is starting its 17th winter season with a completely new look.

High spot on the long list of improvements at the 300-boat marina is a \$1.3 million, 115 unit Motor Inn, which opened November 1, 1966.

Also new at Bahia Mar is a complete revision of dockage rates, the first in the industry to take into consideration the requirements of long-term guests. Included in the rates is a list of services which provides for everything from delivery of the morning paper to 110/220 power and even twenty-four hour security service.

Old Bahia Mar is wearing a new hat, and new and old-time visitors to our south Florida "Venice" will be pleasantly surprised this winter.

Carl Kiekhaefer, the spirited and enigmatic Dutch genius who made Mercury motors a by-word in the outboard industry, has always been a pretty fine fellow when it came to the nation's press. Kiekhaefer initiated the famous Mercury press parties where approximately 150 of the country's top outdoor and boating writers were invited to some enchanting place somewhere under the sun and

given a royal treatment for three days the likes of which are seldom seen anywhere.

This year's extravaganza, which is also used to introduce the coming year's line of Mercury Motors, was at Port-O-Call in St. Petersburg, and plans are to give a running account of what went on in the next issue, after attending the shindig. Magazine production being what it is, we have to mention it about a month before it actually happens, so we'll let you know about Merc's impressive line for 1967 in the December issue.

---

A COUPLE OF MONTHS back we wrote that Chrysler Corporation was coming into the outboard field like hungry relatives coming to Sunday dinner.

The new 1967 lines being shown by Chrysler all over the nation are ample proof that what Buck Wright told at the Outdoor Writers of America convention last June wasn't just a publicity man's line of chatter.

Usually, as in automobiles and boats, when a manufacturer announces his "new" line for the coming year, the "new" means some different paint job, a few new mechanical innovations, some new pictures with different girl models, and perhaps some technical changes.

But Chrysler, in announcing "new" boats for the 1967 model year, wasn't kidding. Their new boats are NEW from top to bottom and from bow to stern.

The biggest eye-opener, to me, is Chrysler's new Hydro-Vee hull on the Charger and Courier models. According to Adam Koch, prexy of Chrysler's boat division, this is not a modified V-hull or a fresh name for the same old shoe.

"The hull is 100 percent new," Koch reported. "We selected the name Hydro-Vee because this extremely fast, efficient, and stable hull embodies for the pleasure boater the best features from three-point hydro hull and deep-v hulls. To over simplify what's been accomplished is a combination of the stability from sponsons such as appear on hydroplane racers and the high speed and soft ride delivered by ocean racing deep-v, or stepped bottom craft."

---

EVEN THE TRAVEL PEOPLE are begrudgingly admitting that the three most popular sports activities of



Aerial view of Fort Lauderdale's "new" Bahia Mar, starting its seventeenth season.

U.S. adults in their increasing leisure time are fishing, bowling and boating.

These findings were divulged by Travel Research International, Inc., in their latest issue of TRAVEL CAPSULE. Based on TRI's continuing survey of 30,000 different U.S. adults every year, this comparison of the use of leisure time is detailed in Travel Capsule:

Among all U.S. adults the percentage of those participating in the nine most popular recreational activities and sports are—

Fishing .....	32%	Golf .....	12%
Bowling .....	27%	Tennis .....	7%
Boating .....	23%	Ice Skating .....	7%
Camping .....	18%	Skiing .....	6%
Hunting .....	15%		

When they figured those ice skating statistics, they weren't interviewing any Floridians. But it is quite conceivable that several of the "interviewees" were from Florida, and that gives an added boost to the fishing, boating and camping totals.

So, there are the figures, friends. You can see where fishing and boating far exceed any other outside activity in this country.

FOR MANY YEARS I have gotten a special kind of "kick" watching various skippers dock their boats.

In what looks like the simplest maneuver in boating, docking in actuality scares more people than Frankenstein on the loose. In particular does it give many lady skippers the heebies, but I have seen some of the gals make pikers out of us guys who think we know all there is to know about docking a boat.

All I can say is, the fella that invented boat fenders should be placed in boating's Hall of Fame at the top of the list.

One of the easiest methods of judging the ability of a skipper is to watch him dock his boat. No matter what the weather, the skillful outboarder always seems to be able to get his boat to the dock gently, and with a minimum of backing and filling.

While docking is not something you can master by reading a few paragraphs, the experts do have some tips which will make this chore less troublesome, and these experts passed on the info to me.

The key to smooth docking, they say, is patience. Many outboarders will spend a long day on the water and then try to dock a boat and unload its contents in five minutes. Take your time and try to learn to let the wind and water currents assist you.

One of the biggest mistakes beginners make is coming up to a dock at a rapid rate and then relying

(Continued on next page)



A cruise up the narrows of the St. Marks River will reveal some of the finest wilderness boating waters to be found.

*(Continued from preceding page)*

on the reversing of the engine to slow down and stop the boat. Just as they are about to apply limited power to nudge them to the dock, the wake catches up with the boat and throws it against the side of the dock. Always allow plenty of room to slow down.

Some outboarders come to a complete stop about 50 yards from the dock and then start again, making the docking procedure a completely separate maneuver. This method has the advantage of allowing them time to judge wind and current conditions as they exist in the immediate vicinity.

Always approach a dock against the current, for it will act as a helpful brake. Working against it with your motor running will give you better steering control.

When winds are brisk, they can have a strong influence on the handling of a boat. If the boat has a fairly high cabin, it presents more surface to the wind than it does to the current. Practice offshore to learn the effects of various wind conditions and how to allow for them in controlling your boat.

Actually, docking a boat throws more unnecessary fear into novice skippers than anything else. It is sorta like the gal learning to drive a car . . . she can do everything right on the button 'til it comes to parking, and there is where a lot of them push the panic button.

Many "cowboys" who feel they know all there is to know about handling a boat are among those who charge into a dock at full speed, counting on a quick reverse to pull them up to a classy stop, just inches away from the dock. I have seen these cowboys haul into the dock at full speed, get within boat

length range and then power into reverse. On many occasions the motor quit and you can imagine what happens. Well, one thing . . . sure keeps the dock repair men busy!! Not to mention insurance adjusters.

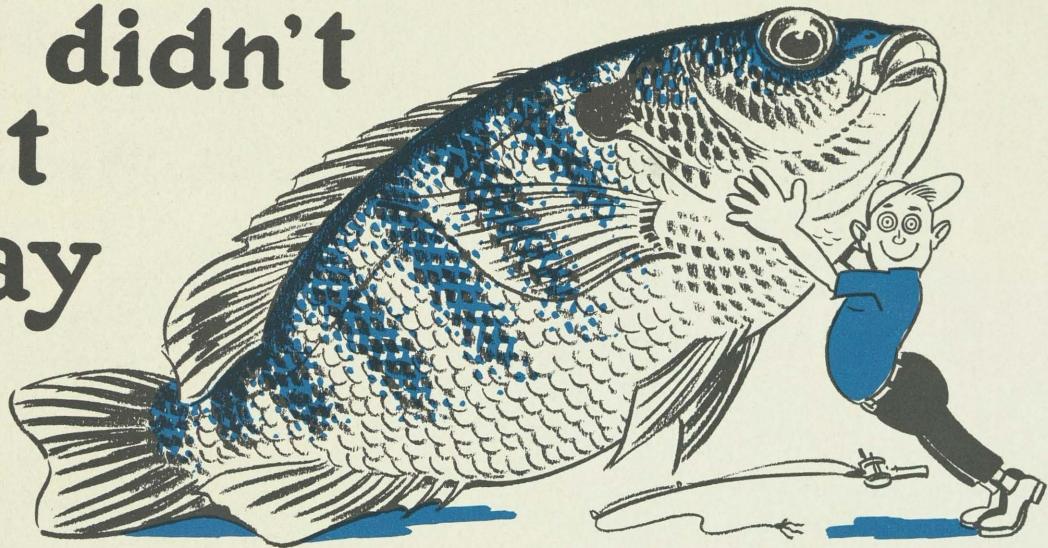
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WANT TO TAKE A magnificent boat trip that is for "teeny weeny" boats only? Then come with us as we cruise the beautiful waters of the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers, just south of Tallahassee at St. Marks.

We will have a complete yarn on this cruise in an up-coming issue of **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**, but in betwixt now and then, if you want to take a small boat (and it has got to be small) up the St. Marks and Wakulla, don't pass up the opportunity. It isn't a long trip . . . barely 10-15 miles up the St. Marks from the launching ramp (and a fine one, too) at Newport on U.S. Highway 319, and a mere 10 mile run up the Wakulla from the confluence of the two rivers at St. Marks . . . but such scenery you didn't know existed outside a Tarzan movie. Fact is, some of these Tarzan scenes were filmed up the Wakulla River.

But you must take a small boat. Oh, it isn't absolutely mandatory, as I went up the Wakulla in a 16 footer with a 20 horse Johnson on it, but we did a lot of backing down to clean long grass off the prop. That grass simply flows right along the surface of the water on the Wakulla, especially, and you'll get all tied-up occasionally, even with a small boat and motor. But it isn't impassable . . . ornery, maybe, but not impassable. It is a trip you'll rave about. More about it in the full feature we plan for later on. ●

# For that BIG ONE that didn't get away



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS

..... 8 pounds or larger

### CHAIN PICKEREL

..... 4 pounds or larger

### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

..... 1 1/2 pounds or larger

### SHELLCRACKER

..... 2 pounds or larger

### BLACK CRAPPIE

..... 2 pounds or larger

### RED BREAST

..... 1 pound or larger

## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip No. \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

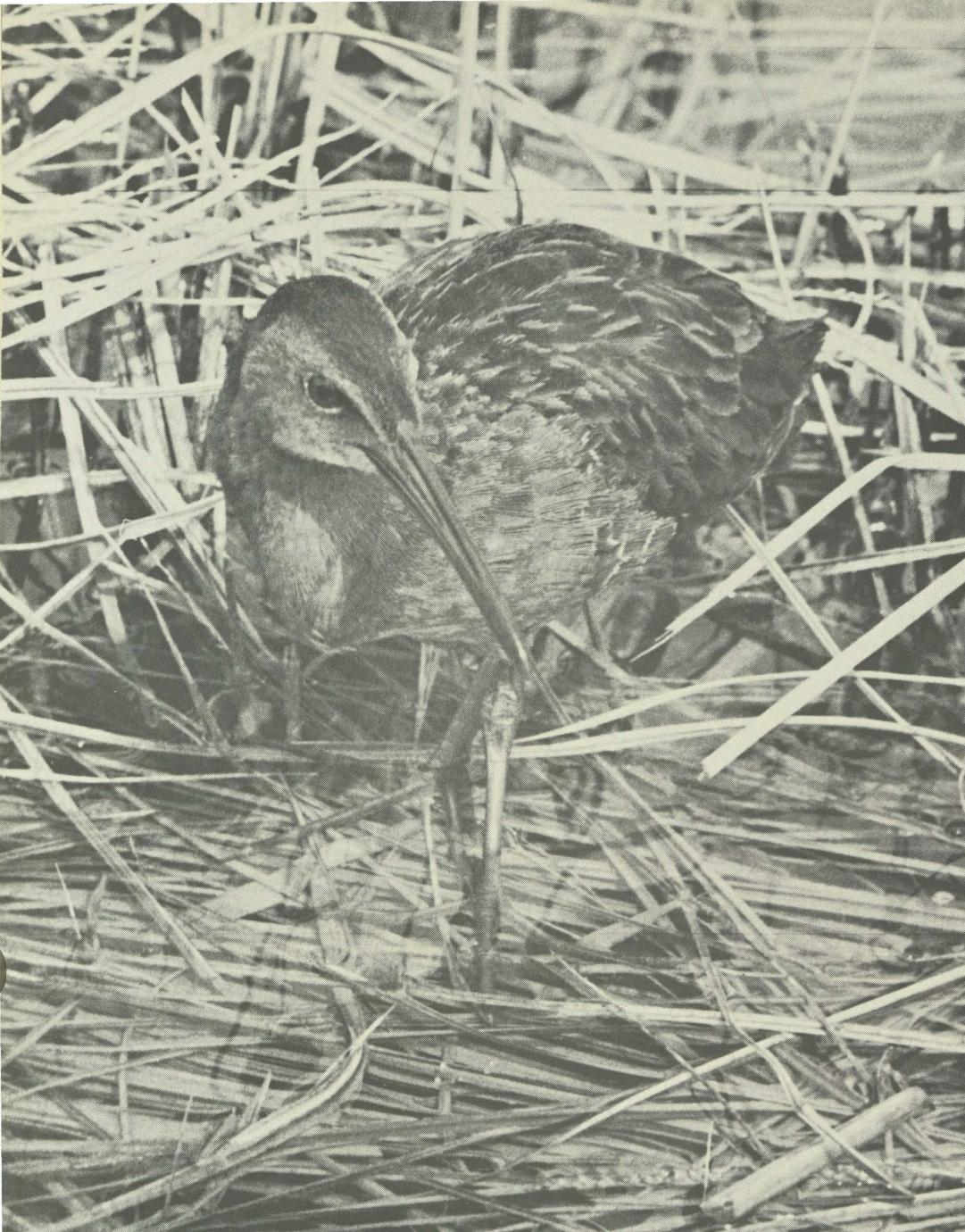
Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.



**Clapper Rail**

Wildlife Portrait By Wallace Hughes